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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT.

ALTHOUGH employment generally was still bad during March, the gradual improvement which had been in progress since the beginning of the year was maintained. At coal mines, in tinplate and steel sheet manufacture, and in the carpet industry employment was good; in the worsted trade it was fairly good; and in the iron and steel, woollen, hosiery, ready-made clothing, furnishing, leather and paper trades it was fair. In most of the other large industries it was still slack; but a further improvement was reported in the iron-mining, pig-iron, engineering, shipbuilding, boot and shoe, building, wood-working and pottery industries.

The percentage unemployed among members of Trade Unions from which returns are received was 12·3 at the end of March, as compared with 13·1 at the end of February, and with 16·3 at the end of March, 1922. The percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·1 at 26th March, as compared with 11·8 at 26th February, and 14·4 at the end of March, 1922. The total number of workpeople registered at the Employment Exchanges as unemployed at 26th March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was approximately 1,289,000, of whom 999,500 were men and 213,500 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 26th February the corresponding total was 1,376,000, of whom 1,073,000 were men and 218,000 were women.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are collected by the Department the changes in rates of wages reported as having taken effect in March resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £64,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 920,000 workpeople and in an increase of approximately £650 in the weekly wages of over 16,000 workpeople.

Over two-thirds of the total number of workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced were coal miners in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, Radstock, and Scotland, who sustained reductions varying from under one-half per cent. on current rates in Radstock to nearly 3 per cent. in Yorkshire and the East Midlands.

Among other bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced in March were semi-skilled men and labourers in steel melting shops generally and in puddling forges and rolling mills in the North of England, ship repairers on the Mersey, shipbuilders at Belfast, electric cable makers, heating and domestic engineers, men employed in flour mills, brewery workers at Burton, and employees of local authorities in Lancashire, Cheshire, and the West Midlands.

Under the Trade Boards Acts there were reductions in the minimum rates fixed for various classes of workpeople in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade, the

rope, twine and net trade, and the retail bespoke tailoring trade in Great Britain, the milk distributive trade in England and Wales and the dressmaking and women's light clothing trade, the retail bespoke tailoring trade, and the brush and broom trade in Northern Ireland.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased were iron ore miners in Cumberland and the Furness district, and blastfurnace workers in West Cumberland and North Lancashire.

During the first three months of 1923 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department have resulted in a net reduction of over £160,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 1,600,000 workpeople, and in a net increase of about £19,500 in the weekly wages of nearly 190,000 workpeople. In the corresponding three months of 1922 there was a net reduction of £1,210,000 in the weekly wage rates of nearly 5,900,000 workpeople, and a net increase of £3,400 in those of 20,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 31st March the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics prepared by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was approximately 74 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The corresponding figure for 1st March was 76 per cent. The highest point reached was 176 per cent. above the pre-war level, in November, 1920, and the present figure is the lowest recorded since April, 1917. For food alone the increase at 31st March, as compared with July, 1914, was 68 per cent.

The statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

For further particulars and details of the statistics reference should be made to the article on page 128.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 52. In addition, 28 disputes which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of the month.

The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in March (involving those workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 86,000, as compared with 40,000 in the previous month and 246,000 in March, 1922 (when disputes were in progress in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, involving over 200,000 workpeople). The estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during March was 834,000 working days, as compared with 337,000 days in February, 1923, and 2,980,000 days in March, 1922. Particulars of the principal disputes in progress are given on page 138.

REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL PAINTS COMMITTEE.

A COMMITTEE was appointed in August, 1921, by the then Home Secretary "to re-examine, more particularly in the light of the further information which has become available since the inquiries of the Departmental Committees appointed in 1911, the question of the danger from the use of lead paints to workers in the painting trades, and the comparative efficiency and cost, and the effect on the health of the workers, of paints containing lead and leadless paints respectively; and to advise whether any modifications of the conclusions and recommendations of these Committees have become necessary." This Committee has now issued its Report.*

The Committees (referred to above) which were appointed in 1911 to investigate the danger attendant on the use of lead compounds in paint reported in favour of the entire prohibition (with the exception of a small percentage) of the use of such compounds, except for special classes of decorative painting work of very minor importance.† The Committees were led to the conclusion that the adoption of leadless substitutes was practicable by the evidence given in their favour by the officials of H.M. Office of Works and by the representatives of several large firms engaged in coach-building. Moreover, no alternative was then known for the process of rubbing down paint with *dry* sandpaper, a process which creates a fine dust, giving rise to serious risk of lead poisoning. The alternative of regulations was rejected as presenting insuperable difficulties, especially as to enforcement.

The present Committee reviewed the progress made since the war in the control of the use of lead in paints, and the experience of lead and of leadless paints since the previous Committee's inquiries. The Report now issued also brings up to date the official information concerning lead poisoning among painters, and deals at length with the alleged deleterious effects of turpentine and other volatile paint thinners.

The Office of Works has now changed its views as to the efficiency of leadless paints, the zinc base paints used on public buildings for some years having been found very deficient in durability for external painting, and for internal painting which is subject to rough usage; and other evidence was received to the same effect. A process has also recently been discovered for the *damp* rubbing down of paint, which greatly reduces the danger from dust. The situation has also changed owing to the adoption, at the Third International Labour Conference, held at Geneva in 1921, of a Draft Convention concerning the use of white lead in painting,‡ which is printed as an appendix to the present Report.

In these circumstances the present Committee do not support the recommendation that the use of lead paint for the painting of buildings should be entirely prohibited. They are satisfied that there is at present no efficient substitute for lead paint for outside painting and for certain kinds of internal painting. At the same time they hold that the statistics of lead poisoning, arising from the use of lead paint, are sufficiently serious to make it most desirable to limit its use as far as practicable, and, where it is used, to make its use subject to statutory regulations.

They accordingly recommend that legislation should be passed to give effect to the principles contained in the Geneva Convention‡ (referred to above), and that regulations to deal with the continued use of lead paint should be brought into force at the earliest possible moment.

In connection with the Geneva Convention, the Home Office have taken preliminary steps, in collaboration with the Painters' and Decorators' Industrial Joint Council, to prepare a code of regulations for the painting of buildings. This draft Code (which is also printed as an appendix to the Report) has been unanimously adopted by both sides of the Industrial Joint Council, and has been approved, with only a minor reservation, by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers. The Committee recommend that these regulations should be adopted.

The enforcement of regulations as regards the painting of buildings presents special difficulties, and the Committee refer with approval to a suggestion of "internal" inspection, i.e., a scheme of inspection organised by the trade interests concerned themselves; the Factory Inspectors being given the necessary powers to deal with complaints, cases of lead poisoning, and other special matters.

As regards the use of paints in other industries (e.g., coach and wagon painting, preparatory priming work in joinery establishments, ship painting, and the like), the Committee recommend that the use of paints should be made subject to Regulations (power to make which already exists); and that in particular the dry rubbing down of lead paint should be made illegal. As regards internal painting on shipboard, they recommend that the Regulations should make provision for adequate ventilation, whether lead paints are used or not, to counteract the effect of the fumes of paint thinners (turpentine, etc.).

The Committee recommend that the requirements of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as regards notification of suspected cases of lead poisoning, should be extended, *mutatis mutandis*, to suspected cases contracted in the painting of buildings.

They suggest that a Technical Commission should be set up,

under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, to investigate certain unsolved problems in paint technology.

They do not consider that the Departments responsible for the painting of Government buildings and other Government property should be subject, in their choice of materials, to special restrictions which are not applied to private contractors.

The Committee, having carefully examined the available evidence, conclude that there is not sufficient ground to warrant them in accepting the view that turpentine poisoning is the cause of the leading symptoms commonly attributed to either acute or chronic lead poisoning, nor in attributing to the inhalation of the fumes of turpentine and other thinners the occurrence of chronic Bright's disease.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1923.

THE Unemployment Insurance Bill, an outline of which appeared in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for March (p. 82), received the Royal Assent on the 29th March, and came into force on the 12th April.

The only important amendment of general interest made in the Bill during its passage through Parliament was the substitution of 12th April for 19th April as the date when it should come into force.

HOUSING, Etc. (No. 2) BILL.*

A BILL "to amend the enactments relating to the Housing of the Working Classes (including the amendment and revocation of building byelaws), Town Planning, and the Acquisition of Small Dwellings," was introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Health on the 11th April.

Section 1 (sub-sections 1 and 2) of the Bill proposes to authorise the Minister of Health to make contributions, out of moneys provided by Parliament, towards any expenses incurred by a local authority in providing, or in promoting the construction of, houses of a certain type and size, if completed before the 1st October, 1925; provided that such contribution shall not exceed the sum of £6 per annum for each house, for a period not exceeding twenty years. The houses in respect of which this contribution may be paid are as follows:—

(a) a two-storied house with a minimum of 620 and a maximum of 850 sup. ft.;

(b) a flat or a one-storied house with a minimum of 550 and a maximum of 780 sup. ft.

Sub-section 3 of the same Section authorises the Minister to make contributions out of moneys provided by Parliament towards the expenses incurred by a local authority in carrying out a *re-housing* scheme; such annual contribution not exceeding one-half of the estimated average annual loss likely to be incurred by the local authority.

Sub-section 4 allows contributions to be made, in certain cases, in respect of building proposals submitted by a local authority and approved by the Minister within fifteen months before the passing of the Act.

Section 2 proposes to allow local authorities, under certain conditions, and with the approval of the Minister, to assist private building enterprise in building houses of the type and size specified above, either by a lump-sum grant, or by a refund of rates for a specified period, or by payment of interest (or repayment of advances) to a building society.

Section 3 proposes to authorise the Minister to make contributions to "public utility" societies, of the like amount as he is authorised to make to a local authority, towards building houses of the type and size specified.

Section 5 proposes to authorise local authorities to facilitate the increase of housing accommodation (a) by advancing money to private builders, (b) by guaranteeing the repayment to building societies of advances made by them, (c) by encouraging (by a limited refund of rates) the conversion of houses into flats or tenements. An advance or guarantee may be given in respect of any house having an estimated value of not more than £1,500.

Sections 7-14 contain a number of miscellaneous amendments to the Housing Acts, dealing (*inter alia*) with housing schemes outside the area of a local authority; with licensed premises included in housing schemes; with repairs to houses, required to be executed to make them fit for human habitation; with the revocation of local building bye-laws which impede housing; and with the simplification of the Housing Acts.

Sections 15 and 16 deal with Town Planning, Section 16 extending (to six years from the 1st January, 1923), the time within which councils of boroughs and urban districts are required to prepare and submit to the Minister town planning schemes.

Section 17 introduces certain amendments of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, relaxing the conditions under which advances may be made by local authorities to persons desiring to purchase houses for their own occupation. The limit of the market value of houses in respect of which advances may be made is raised from £800 to £1,200; and an advance may be granted to a person intending to construct a house, and may be made by instalments as the building progresses.

* Bill 82: H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d.

* Published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s. 6d. net.

† The Reports of these Committees have been published: *Report of Committee on the Use of Lead in the Painting of Buildings* (Cd. 7,882); and *Report of Committee on the Use of Lead Compounds in the Painting, Enamelling and Varnishing of Coaches and Carriages* (Cmd. 630). *Appendices and Minutes of Evidence* (Cmd. 631 and 632).

‡ See LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1921, page 628.

RATES OF WAGES AT AUGUST, 1914, AND MARCH, 1923.

IN the October issue of this GAZETTE (pages 398 to 400) particulars were given of the comparative level of rates of wages at August, 1914, December, 1920, and September, 1922. Since the latter date further reductions in rates of wages have occurred in some industries and revised particulars are accordingly given below, comparing the level of wages at the end of March, 1923, with that at August, 1914. The particulars given are in the same form as those published in the October, 1922, issue of the GAZETTE, and comparisons between the level of wages at December, 1920, and March, 1923, can readily be made by reference to that issue.

Building Trades.—At the end of March the hourly rates of wages in the larger towns showed increases, as compared with the pre-war rates, ranging mostly from 9½d. to 11½d. per hour in the cases of skilled men, and 8d. to 9d. per hour in the case of labourers. On the basis of the unweighted averages of the standard rates of wages of the principal classes of workmen, the average increases in hourly and weekly rates at the end of March, 1923, in towns with populations over 100,000, were as shown in the following Table. The weekly rates shown have been computed by multiplying the hourly rates by the number of hours constituting a full ordinary week at the two dates, both the summer and winter hours being taken into account for this purpose.

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Rates of Wages in large towns at		Average Percentage Increase over Pre War Rates at 31st March, 1923.
	4th Aug., 1914.	31st Mar., 1923.	
	Hourly Rates.		
	d.	d.	Per cent.
Bricklayers	9·9	19·6	98
Masons*	9·8	19·7	101
Carpenters and Joiners ..	9·8	19·6	101
Plumbers	9·6	20·2	110
Plasterers	9·7	19·6	101
Painters	8·8	19·3	119
Labourers	6·6	14·7	123
	Weekly Rates.		
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Bricklayers	40 7	71 2	76
Masons*	39 7	71 7	81
Carpenters and Joiners ..	39 11	71 2	79
Plumbers	39	73 9	86
Plasterers	40 0	71 2	78
Painters	36 3	70 1	93
Labourers	27	53 4	98

If the increases shown are combined in the proportions of the relative numbers of men employed in the different occupations, the resulting general average increase over pre-war rates is approximately 9½d. per hour (or about 115 per cent.) at the end of March. The increase in weekly full-time wages, allowing for the reduced working hours, is approximately 30s., or about 90 per cent. It should be observed that the percentages given are general averages for all the large towns combined, and that there is much variation in the percentage increases in different towns. Proposals made by the employers for reductions in rates of wages in the building trades are being referred to arbitration. (See page 122.)

Coal Mining.—At the end of March, 1923, the general level of district rates of wages was 28·1 per cent. over pre-war rates in Scotland, 21·7 per cent. in Durham, 30·2 per cent. in Northumberland, 32 per cent. in Yorks. and the East Midlands, 30 per cent. in Radstock, and 20 per cent. in other districts. In some cases, however, special advances have been granted, in addition, to particular grades of men, including, in some districts, special allowances in order to maintain wages at a "subsistence level." As a result of these special advances and allowances, the average increase in full-time weekly wages as compared with August, 1914, is somewhat greater than the general percentage increases in district rates, referred to above. The information available is not sufficient to enable this average to be computed precisely, but from such particulars as are available it would appear that at the end of March the increases over pre-war rates ranged from about 20 per cent. to over 40 per cent. in different occupations and districts. These figures, it should be noted, take no account of variations in actual earnings arising from differences in the number of shifts worked per week at the two dates, or, in the case of men on piece-work, from increases or decreases in individual output.

Other Mining and Quarrying.—For iron miners in Cleveland and limestone quarrymen in Durham, rates of wages at the end of March were about 42 per cent. above the pre-war rates. In Cumberland the bargain price for iron-ore miners and the shift rates for underground leading labourers in March, 1923, were

about 56 per cent. and 32 per cent. respectively above the pre-war level.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The general advance over pre-war rates, for men on time rates in the engineering trade, now amounts to 17s. a week, except in certain districts where the men are paid at hourly rates, in which cases the advance amounts to 17s. 10½d. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance on time rates ranges from 7s. or 7s. 10½d. a week, in the case of skilled men, to 15s. or 16s. a week in the case of lower-paid labourers. In some cases, however, further advances have been granted to particular classes of men, both in the engineering and in the shipbuilding industries.

The following Table shows the unweighted averages of the district time rates of wages of men in certain representative occupations in 16 of the principal engineering centres and 13 of the principal shipbuilding centres at August, 1914, and at 31st March, 1923, together with the corresponding percentage increase over pre-war rates. The figures relate to a full ordinary week of 53 hours in some districts and 54 in others in 1914, and of 47 hours generally at March, 1923:—

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time-Rates in the principal centres.		Average Percentage Increase over Pre war Rates at 31st Mar., 1923.
	4th Aug., 1914	31st Mar., 1923	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Engineering:—			
Fitters and Turners ..	38 11	56 6	46
Ironmoulders	41 8	59 2	42
Patternmakers	42 1	60 9	45
Labourers	22 10	40 3	77
Shipbuilding:—			
Shipwrights	41 4	48 11	18
Shipjoiners	40 0	50 9	27
Platers	40 4	47 10	19
Riveters	37 9	45 3	20
Labourers	22 10	38 6	69

For semi-skilled classes the percentages range between those shown for skilled men and those for labourers.

In the case of piece-workers the general advance in the engineering industry amounts to 10 per cent. on basis piece-rates plus a flat-rate advance of 10s. a week. In the shipbuilding industry the general increase is 10 per cent. on basis piece-rates and, in addition, a portion of certain special advances, granted under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of awards and consequential extensions, is paid to some classes of men. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable a reliable calculation to be made of the effect of these changes on the average earnings of piece-workers in the engineering and shipbuilding industries.

Other Metal Trades.—In certain of the metal trades in the Midlands, the increases in rates of wages up to the end of March, for male time-workers, were 17s. a week in the sheet metal working trade, 17s. 6d. a week in the nut and bolt industry in the Midlands, 17s. 6d. a week for unskilled and semi-skilled men in the spring, tube and various other industries in the Midlands, and 18s. 6d. a week in the light castings industry.

In the heavy iron and steel trades (smelting, puddling, rolling, forging, etc.), in which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the selling price of the finished products, the increases over pre-war rates vary very widely, being in some cases (e.g., with certain blast furnace labourers) equivalent to about 100 per cent. on the pre-war level, while at the other extreme the rates for iron and steel workers in South Wales show a net increase of less than 20 per cent. In the tin plate and steel sheet trade in South Wales the net increase over pre-war rates now amounts to about 34 per cent.

Cotton Industry.—In August, 1914, piece-rates of wages in this industry generally stood at 5 per cent. above the standard list prices. At the end of March, 1923, they were 95 per cent. above the standard. Of this increase, however, 30 per cent. on list prices was granted in 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly working hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. Allowing for the shorter working week now worked, weekly full-time wage rates are generally about 61 per cent. above the pre-war level. In addition, however, special increases or allowances have been granted to certain classes of operatives, e.g., blowing-room men, strippers and grinders, and mule spinners, the effect of which would be to augment slightly the percentages quoted.

Wool Textile Industry.—The rates of wages of woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire are calculated by the addition of a cost-of-living wage to basic rates. At the end of March, 1923, the pre-war basic rates had been increased generally by 10 per cent., and to the rates so increased was added a "cost-of-living wage" of 72½ per cent. and 63½ per cent. in the case of time-workers and piece-workers respectively,* making total increases over pre-war rates of approximately 80 to 90 per cent. for a full working week. These figures are exclusive of a general advance of over 15 per cent. on hourly and piece-rates, which was granted in March, 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages

* The full percentage is paid on basic rates up to 33s. per week; on basic rates up to 51s. it is paid on 33s., or at the equivalent of 80 per cent. of the time-workers' "cost-of-living" percentage, whichever is the greater; on basic rates over 51s., 20 per cent. of the time-workers' percentage is paid on the first 13s. above that amount, and 8 per cent. of that percentage on the remainder.

* When different rates are paid to banker masons and fixers respectively, the rates used are those for banker hands.

at the same level as before, and the percentage increase in hourly rates is, therefore, correspondingly greater.

Other Textile Industries.—In the bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing section, the hosiery industry, and the carpet trade, the increases over pre-war rates at the end of March, 1923, were as follows :—

		Increases over pre-war rates.	
Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing and Finishing :—			
Lancs., Cheshire, Derbyshire and Scotland—		Per week.	
		s.	d.
Men	...	24	8*
Women	...	14	8*
Yorkshire—		Per cent.	
Timeworkers	...	96	
Pieceworkers	...	73½	
Hosiery Manufacture (Midlands)	...	66½	
Carpet Manufacture :—			
Timeworkers	...	70	
Pieceworkers	...	65	

Apart from these increases in weekly wages, the weekly working hours, which generally varied from 54 to 56, were reduced in 1919 to 48, the weekly rates of timeworkers remaining unchanged, and the rates of pieceworkers being enhanced so as to yield the same weekly earnings as before the change of hours.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—In the manufacture of boots and shoes the minimum time-rate of wages for the principal classes of skilled workmen, 23 years of age and upwards, at the end of March, 1923, was 60s. a week. Before the war it was 30s. in most districts, though in a few cases it was 28s. or 29s. For men of the same ages in the heel-building department and in the stock and shoe rooms the minimum in March was 57s. a week, compared with a rate of 27s. a week adopted in 1914 to take effect from the beginning of 1915. For women of 20 years or over employed in certain operations in the closing and heel-building departments and the stock and shoe rooms the minimum rate was 36s. a week at March, 1923, compared with 17s. to 18s. adopted in 1914, with effect from January, 1915.

Railway Service.—For the principal grades of adult workmen in the traffic sections the rates of wages now in operation show increases ranging mostly from 29s. to 36s. a week above the pre-war averages for the corresponding grades. Owing to the wide variation in the pre-war rates of wages, the percentage increases on pre-war rates vary considerably. For some grades of porters, whose pre-war average rate was about 18s. a week, the increase is as much as 160 per cent.; on the other hand, for certain classes of foremen, whose pre-war average rates were 37s. to 38s. a week, it amounts to not more than 80 to 90 per cent.; whilst for men whose pre-war earnings were over £2 a week the percentage increase is less. The hours of labour in the railway service were reduced to 48 per week in 1919, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages.

Other Transport Services.—For dock labourers, the rates generally paid in March were 10s. to 12s. 6d. a day of 8 hours, compared with about 4s. 6d. to 6s. 8d. for a day averaging approximately 10 hours in 1914. In the case of seamen, the standard rates in March were £10 a month for able seamen and £10 10s. for firemen, compared with £5 to £5 10s. and £5 10s. to £6 respectively in August, 1914. In the road transport industry the increases in twelve of the principal towns range from 18s. to 31s. per week, the average rate for one-horse drivers in these towns being now 52s. 8d. per week, compared with 25s. 7d. in 1914. In the tramway service it is estimated that the increases over pre-war rates in the case of drivers and conductors now average about 29s. a week. In addition to these increases in wages, a shorter working week was adopted in 1919, generally of 44 hours for dock labourers and 48 hours for carters and tramway servants, without any reduction in weekly wages.

Other Industries.—In the following Table particulars are given of the rates of wages at 4th August, 1914, and the end of March, 1923, of some of the principal classes of workpeople in the printing and bookbinding, furniture-making and baking trades in a number of large towns :—

Trade and Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of recognised Weekly Time Rates of Wages in certain large towns† at		Average Percentage increase over Pre-War Rates at 31st Mar., 1923.
	4th Aug., 1914	31st Mar., 1923.	
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Printing and Book-binding :—			
Hand compositors on book and jobbing work	35 8	77 0	116
Bookbinders and machine rulers	33 11	75 10	124
Furniture Making :—			
Cabinet makers	39 9	76 3	92
Upholsterers	38 9	76 2	96
French Polishers	37 1	76 0	105
Baking :—			
Table hands	30 1	65 11	119

It should be observed that the hours of labour in a normal full week at March, 1923, were 48 in the printing and baking trades

and 44 to 47 in the furniture-making trades, compared with 50 or 51 in the printing trades, 48 to 60 for bakers, and 49½ to 54 in the furniture trade at August, 1914, and the percentage increases in hourly rates are therefore greater than those in weekly rates, shown in the Table.

In the *pottery industry* the general level of rates of wages is now 66½ per cent. above the pre-war level. In addition, increases in basic rates have been granted to certain classes of workpeople. In 1919 the hours of labour were reduced from 52 to 47 per week, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages.

Agriculture.—In a number of counties rates of wages have been agreed upon by voluntary Conciliation Committees of employers and workpeople, and in some others uniform rates of wages have been recommended by the employers' organisations for general adoption. The rates of wages so agreed to or recommended at the end of March ranged from 25s. to 35s. a week. In the same districts in 1914 the cash rates of wages, which were subject to the addition of certain allowances, ranged from 13s. to 21s. a week.

SUMMARY.

Both the amounts of increase and the corresponding percentages on pre-war rates show a wide diversity among different classes of workers. In some cases the increases in full-time weekly rates at the end of March, 1923, were equivalent to only 20 per cent. on the pre-war rates. On the other hand, they were equivalent in some cases to over 100 per cent. on pre-war rates. The information at the disposal of the Department is insufficient to enable the average percentage increase over pre-war rates for all industries and occupations to be calculated exactly, but it is estimated that at the end of March, 1923, *weekly full-time rates of wages* of adult workpeople averaged about 70 per cent. above the level of August, 1914, as compared with 75 to 80 per cent. at the end of September, 1922, and with 170 to 180 per cent. at the end of December, 1920, when wages generally were at their highest level. As the length of the normal working week had been considerably reduced between 1914 and December, 1920, the percentage increases in hourly rates of wages would be substantially greater. It should be remarked, however, that the information regularly collected by the Department as to changes in rates of wages relates mainly (though not exclusively) to general or district changes, arranged by organised bodies of employers and workpeople. Many changes not of a general character do not come to the notice of the Department, and in some industries, therefore, the particulars available for the end of March, 1923, may fall short of indicating the full amount of the increase in rates of wages as compared with 1914. On the other hand, it appears probable that in some unorganised industries the increases in wages may not have been so great as in those industries in which the workers are well organised.

It should be observed that the above particulars relate to rates of wages for *full-time working*, and that no account is taken of the loss of earnings which is now being caused by unemployment and short-time working, or of the effects of increased or reduced exertion on the earnings of workpeople paid at piece-rates of wages, as to which no comprehensive statistics are available.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE BUILDING TRADE.

DISCUSSIONS have been in progress for some time between the employers and the operatives in the building industry on the subject of proposals made by the employers for reductions in rates of wages and increases in working hours. After lengthy negotiations the following agreement was reached on Friday, 13th April :—

Conditionally upon the employers withdrawing their notices, it is agreed that the interpretation of the National Wages and Conditions Council document and the question of wages be referred to the arbitration of an arbitrator to be appointed by the Lord Chief Justice, together with two assessors, one to be appointed by the operatives and the other by the building employers. The arbitration to be held on the above within seven days.

On the question of forty-seven hours application, a ballot to be taken regionally by the operatives as to whether failing a regional settlement they refer the matter to the National Wages and Conditions Council for decision, and, failing the regions agreeing to this or the National Wages and Conditions Council agreeing a decision, the matter to be referred to the above-named arbitrator and assessors.

The ballot on this question to be completed within one month; the regional negotiations within seven days after the completion of the ballot and, failing decision, the National Wages and Conditions Council to decide or agree to refer to arbitration within a further seven days.

In the principle of the "spreadover" of the forty-four hours' week it is understood that no extension of the present hours would apply in any region where unemployment in the crafts is excessive.

Each party agrees to conduct arbitration proceedings without legal advocate.

The Lord Chief Justice has appointed Sir Hugh Fraser to act as arbitrator in the matter.

* These amounts are exclusive of increases in basic rates varying for different classes of workpeople granted in 1919.

† The averages are based on the rates current in 26 towns in the Printing and Bookbinding and Baking Trades and in 17 towns in the Furniture Trade.

DUNDEE JUTE WORKERS' DISPUTE.

A DISPUTE in the jute industry at Dundee began in February owing to a difference between a firm and their workpeople respecting the number of spinners that should be employed on certain spinning frames. Subsequently the dispute extended to a number of works belonging to the company of which the firm originally affected was one branch. This led to the Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers becoming involved, with the result that a stoppage of all the spinning and weaving factories in Dundee, except two belonging to employers who were not members of the Employers' Association, began on 23rd March.

On 5th April, after discussion with both sides, Sir David Shackleton, on behalf of the Minister of Labour, arranged a joint conference of the employers' and workers' organisations, when the whole position was examined. At the end of the conference certain proposals were put forward for the consideration of both sides as a basis for the resumption of work. These proposals were accepted by the employers, but the workpeople desired certain modifications; and at the time of going to press negotiations were proceeding.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

DURING the five weeks ended the 31st March, six meetings of Joint Industrial Councils were reported to the Ministry of Labour. A number of meetings of District Councils and Sub-Committees were also reported to have taken place.

WAGES, HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

In the North-Western area wages of electrical fitters and some other allied workers have been regulated up to the present in accordance with the standard district Engineering rate. The District Council for the *Electricity Supply Industry* recently had before it the question as to whether these workpeople should continue to be paid as heretofore or whether the rates of wages for this class should be set out in the schedule of wages for workers in the industry. The Council was unable to come to an agreement on the question and the matter was, with the approval of the National Council, referred to arbitration by the Industrial Court. At the annual meeting of the *Glove Manufacturing Joint Industrial Council*, held on the 6th March, the revision of the Wages Agreement due to expire at the end of March was considered. It was decided to make no change in the rates of wages payable in the leather section of the trade, and also that rates of wages for the fabric section should be settled locally. The West Riding Provincial Council for *Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services* has referred to the Industrial Court a claim made by the Employers' Side for reduction of wages. The *Needle, Fish Hook and Fishing Tackle Joint Industrial Council* on 13th March agreed that the bonus of female workers should be taken off in three instalments. At a meeting of the *Quarrying National Joint Industrial Council* on 20th March it was reported that a copy of the report drawn up by the Council on the question of silicosis had been sent to the Secretary of the Committee appointed by the Home Secretary referred to in the February, 1923, LABOUR GAZETTE (page 42). At a meeting of the *Chalk Sectional Council* on 15th March the employers announced their intention of continuing the present wages agreement, subject to one month's notice on either side.

OTHER TOPICS.

The *Asbestos Joint Industrial Council* on 14th March agreed that, although the Council's holiday scheme was now at an end, the matter should be kept in mind and should be brought forward again at the next meeting of the Council. The *Seed Crushing and Compound Cake Manufacturing District Joint Industrial Council* for Hull and District has approved arrangements and rules for welfare work to be applicable to all mills in the district. The *Stationery Office Departmental Council* on the 7th March considered certain grievances put forward by a section of the workpeople, and arrangements were made for negotiations to take place.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

At 27th March, 1923, the number of men in training was 16,417 and the number awaiting training 10,501. Since 1st August, 1919, 69,599 men have terminated training.

INTERRUPTED APPRENTICESHIPS.

Up to the 4th April, 1923, 44,698 apprentices had been accepted for training with 17,849 employers, as compared with 44,698 apprentices with 17,846 employers on the 7th March, 1923.

The apprentices rejected up to the 4th April, 1923, numbered 2,178, this being the same as on the 7th March, 1923. Of those accepted 42,683 had terminated their training, and 2,015 were still in training. The corresponding numbers on the 7th March, 1923, were 42,498 and 2,200.

The number of men who have received institutional training has increased during the four weeks from 2,306 to 2,309.

NATIONAL SCHEME.

On the 31st March, 1923, the number of employers on the King's National Roll was 29,812. The undertakings given by these employers under the provisions of the National Scheme for the employment of disabled ex-Service men cover approximately 300,000 disabled ex-Service men.

The following statement gives particulars of the number of

local authorities in Great Britain of the categories referred to below who have enrolled under the scheme, and whose names are accordingly entered upon the King's National Roll:—

Local Authorities.	On Roll.	Not on Roll.	Total.
ENGLAND AND WALES.			
*LONDON—			
County Council	1	—	1
Corporation of the City of London	1	—	1
Metropolitan Boroughs	28	—	28
Boards of Guardians	21	7	28
Totals	51	7	58
PROVINCES—			
County Councils	38	24	62
County Boroughs	82	—	82
Town Councils	177	76	253
Urban District Councils	441	340	781
Rural District Councils	176	472	648
Boards of Guardians	164	441	605
Totals	1,078	1,353	2,431
SCOTLAND			
County Councils	8	25	33
County District Committees	23	76	99
Town Councils	66	135	201
Totals	97	236	333
Grand Totals	1,226	1,596	2,822

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES.

THE following statistics as to the activities in 1921 and previous years of Co-operative Housing Societies, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the annual returns furnished to his office.

Apart from Building Societies,† registered under the Building Societies Acts, which are not dealt with in this article, Co-operative Housing Societies fall into two main groups—(1) Tenancy Societies, which retain the ownership of the houses provided, and let them, and (2) House Purchase Societies, which provide houses for gradual purchase. Prior to the war, the Tenancy Societies consisted in the main of Societies formed in connection with the Tenants Co-partnership movement, but the conditions brought about by the war have in many cases rendered impracticable a rigid adherence to the principles on which this movement was founded. The post-war State Housing Schemes have also given an impetus to the formation of many Housing Societies of a different character.

TENANCY SOCIETIES.

Returns obtained for 1921 show that there were 235 Tenancy Societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, with an aggregate membership of 10,927, a total share, loan and reserve capital of £7,367,432, rents receivable amounting to £431,283, and net profits amounting (before provision for interest on shares) to £31,529. In addition one Society brought into credit a sum of £34,168; but although this amount accrued as a result of a series of transactions between the Society and its chairman, it appears to have been in the nature of a gift to the Society to reduce an outstanding balance of loss. Apart from this credit, the profit represented about 5 per cent. upon a share capital of £632,830.

It is unusual to find that any part of the profits is returned by these Societies to tenants as dividends on rents paid. Any surplus which might be available for such a purpose is generally applied to a fund out of which is defrayed the cost of repairs for which the tenants are liable.

The aggregate value of the land and buildings at cost was returned at £7,481,000.

The following Table shows the position of "Tenancy" Societies during the five years 1917-1921. The particulars for years prior to 1921 are inclusive of Ireland, whilst those for 1921 relate to Great Britain only. The figures for Ireland, however, are almost negligible:—

—	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Number of Societies ..	105	103	131	225	235
Number of Members ..	7,465	7,413	7,959	9,730	10,927
Capital:—					
Shares	£ 467,444	£ 470,762	£ 473,115	£ 548,118	£ 632,830
Loans	3,066,365	3,059,707	3,270,132	5,432,327	6,651,834
Reserves	29,001	41,718	42,705	24,919	82,768
Total	3,562,810	3,572,187	3,785,952	6,005,364	7,367,432
Rents Receivable ..	243,302	252,369	258,804	332,406	431,283
Profit (+) or loss (—) before deducting of Interest on Shares	+ 17,691	+ 17,451	+ 7,186	— 6,648	+ 31,529†
Percentage of Profit on Total Share Capital ..	Per cent. 3·8	Per cent. 3·7	Per cent. 1·5	Per cent. 1·2§	Per cent. 5·0

The high cost of repairs and the fluctuations in property values resulted in heavy losses being sustained by some of the Societies in recent years. It is to these losses that the lack of sequence

* The Metropolitan Asylums Board is also on the Roll.

† Particulars of Building Societies registered under the Building Societies Acts are published in Part D of the Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

‡ See remarks in first paragraph under "Tenancy Societies." § Loss.

in the "Profit or Loss" figures is attributable, rather than to a general disturbance of the balances.

HOUSE PURCHASE SOCIETIES.

Returns obtained from House Purchase Societies for 1921 show that there were 29 such Societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, with an aggregate membership of 1,646, and a total share, loan and reserve capital of £262,342. Their operations resulted in a loss of £20,062, which was mainly attributable to two Societies.

The aggregate cost value of land and buildings unsold at the end of the year was returned at £231,588.

The following Table shows the position of "House Purchase" Societies during the five years, 1917-1921. The particulars for years prior to 1921 are inclusive of Ireland, whilst those for 1921 relate to Great Britain only. The figures for Ireland, however, are almost negligible.

	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Number of Societies ..	5	6	13	23	29
Number of Members ..	834	909	1,065	1,306	1,646
Capital:—					
Shares	£ 41,797	£ 45,884	£ 55,342	£ 67,266	£ 73,057
Loans	68,433	89,325	102,751	148,064	207,632
Reserves or balance					
deficit	1,447	2,317	4,118	4,159	-18,347
Total	111,671	137,526	162,211	219,429	262,342
Profit (+) or loss (-) before deducting of interest on Shares	+ 2,012	+ 2,066	+ 3,397	+ 931	-20,062
Percentage of Profit on Total Share Capital	Percent. 4.6	Percent. 4.5	Percent. 6.1	Percent. 1.4	Percent. 27.5*

As in the case of the Tenancy Societies, fluctuations in property values have resulted in heavy losses being sustained by some of the Societies in recent years, and it is to these losses that the lack of sequence in the "Profit or Loss" figures is mainly attributable.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1922.

STATISTICS relating to passenger traffic from and to the United Kingdom during 1922, compiled from the Returns received by the Board of Trade, are published in the *Board of Trade Journal* for 29th March, 1923.

The number of persons of British nationality who left the United Kingdom in 1922 as passengers to places outside Europe, and not within the Mediterranean Sea, exceeded the number who arrived from such places by 99,882, compared with an excess of 118,938 in 1921 and 241,997 in 1913. The records of alien passengers showed an outward balance of 19,280 in 1922, as compared with outward balances of 30,986 in 1921 and 87,076 in 1913.

The number of passengers of all nationalities who left the United Kingdom for the Continent by sea was 898,182 in 1922, compared with 830,558 in 1921 and 1,184,412 in 1913; and the number who arrived from the Continent amounted to 916,398 in 1922, 855,343 in 1921 and 1,309,874 in 1913. In addition, 5,747 departed from, and 6,616 arrived in, the United Kingdom during 1922 by air.

The British subjects who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom to take up permanent residence in non-European countries numbered 174,096 in 1922, 199,477 in 1921 and 389,394 in 1913. Residence for a year or more is treated as permanent residence for the purpose of this classification. Of the total of 174,096 in 1922, those recorded as taking up permanent residence within the British Empire numbered 118,410, or 68 per cent. In 1913 the corresponding number was 285,046, or 73 per cent.

The British passengers from non-European countries recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom to take up permanent residence therein numbered 68,026 in 1922 and 71,367 in 1921, as against 85,709 in 1913.

STATUTORY WORKING HOURS ABROAD.

(A). NEW LEGISLATION.

Italy.

THE *Gazzetta Ufficiale* for 10th April, 1923, publishes the text of a Decree-law, dated 15th March, 1923, on hours of labour, which has been adopted by the Italian Government. The maximum number of hours of effective work may not, as a general rule, exceed eight a day or forty-eight a week. Effective work is defined as that which demands continuous and assiduous application. As a consequence, occupations of a discontinuous or of a waiting or watching nature are excluded from the application of the Decree.

The Decree applies to manual and non-manual workers in industrial and commercial enterprises of all kinds, including charitable institutions, schools of vocational education, offices, public works, hospitals, and all places where work is done for a wage or salary under the orders and direct control of other persons. It does not apply to domestic servants, to persons holding positions of responsibility, and to commercial travellers. Work done on board ship and in the public services will be dealt with under special regulations. In agricultural enterprises, the Decree applies only to day labourers. Separate regulations will be issued for persons working on other forms of contract,

* Loss.

but contracts on a co-partnership basis (*a compartecipazione*) are excluded.

On agricultural and other work subject to the influence of the seasons or to technical exigencies the daily or weekly hours of work may be exceeded, provided that the average number of hours within a fixed period does not exceed the limits to be laid down by Royal Decree.

Overtime of not more than two hours a day or twelve hours a week, or an equivalent average computed over a fixed period, is permissible by agreement between employers and workers. It must be paid for at rates increased by not less than 10 per cent. The hourly limits may also be exceeded in cases of *force majeure*, or when the stoppage of work at the normal hour would be dangerous and detrimental to the staff or to production.

Preparatory and complementary work may be done outside the normal working hours of the establishment where this is necessary and employers and workers are agreed.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare may authorise temporary exemptions from the provisions of the Decree for particular industries, and he may defer, for a period not exceeding twelve months, the application of the Decree to enterprises, or sections of enterprises, where it can be shown that, in order to comply with its provisions, it would be necessary to modify considerably the existing plant.

Otherwise the Decree will come into force four months after the date of its promulgation. It includes a penalty clause.

(B). ORDERS UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, ETC.

(a) Belgium.*

Under Article 5 of the Belgian Eight Hour Day Act of 14th June, 1921, a Royal Order dated 25th February, 1923, has been issued, which authorises enterprises using wind or water as sole motive power to exceed the eight-hour day or forty-eight-hour week, subject to a yearly maximum of 2,400 hours and a daily maximum of ten hours. Where, however, a Saturday half-holiday is granted, the latter maximum may be exceeded by one hour on each of the first five days of the week. A Royal Order, dated 5th March, 1923, also issued under Article 5, permits carriage and motor car hiring enterprises to exceed the eight-hour day or forty-eight-hour week, subject only to a half-yearly maximum of 1,200 hours.†

A Royal Order dated 5th March, 1923, authorises, under Article 6 of the Eight Hour Day Act,‡ the extension by 100 a year of the effective working hours of the staff employed in furniture removal (men employed on loading and unloading), taxi-cab, carrier, and road transport enterprises. Not more than two extra hours may be worked on any one day.

A Royal Order dated 15th March, 1923, based on the Eight Hour Day Act, gives legal sanction to an agreement on working hours arrived at by the National Joint Committee for the Port of Antwerp. The normal working day of men employed on the loading and unloading of ships is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a rest period from noon to 1 p.m.—i.e., an eight-hour day. In cases of extreme urgency—i.e., to finish the loading or unloading of a ship, or in cases of *force majeure*—overtime may be worked up to 8 p.m., with a second rest period from 5 to 5.30 p.m.—i.e., 10½ hours net. Where the work is continuous the day shift works from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with rest periods from noon to 1 p.m., and from 5 to 5.30 p.m.—i.e., 10½ hours net, and the night shift works from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., with a rest period from 1 to 2 a.m.—i.e., 8 hours net—or, on the arrival or departure of a passenger ship, from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m., with a further rest period from 6 to 6.30 a.m.—i.e., 9½ hours net.

The Order limits the weekly hours of effective work to 56, except in the case of preparatory and complementary work, such as shunting, the bringing up of tools, etc., where an extra two hours a day may be worked before or after the normal hours. Compensatory holidays must be given to men employed on this work.

(b) Switzerland.

The Department of Public Economy has issued an Order, dated 12th March, 1923, authorising, as was done in 1922,‖ an extension of the weekly working hours to 52 in the wood-sawing and carpentry and the brick and tile industries. As was the case last year, the Order remains in force until the middle of October next.

(c) Holland.¶

Under Article 27 of the Labour Act of 1919 (as amended by the Act of 20th May, 1922), which empowers the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce to authorise, in certain cases, a 10-hour day and a 55-hour week, roof tile enterprises in the Provinces of Utrecht, South Holland and Gelderland, have been authorised to increase the hours of labourers in the industry to 10 a day and 55 a week during the period 1st April to 31st October, 1923.

(d) Sweden.**

As a result of enquiries into the effects of the eight-hour day conducted by the Department for Social Affairs and the Board of Trade,†† the Swedish Government brought in two Bills in

* Based on despatches from H.M. Commercial Secretary at Brussels.
† *Revue du Travail*, March, 1923, Brussels. Article 5 deals with industries subject to seasonal influence.

‡ See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1923, page 49.
§ Based on a despatch from H.M. Minister at Berne.

¶ See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, May, 1922, page 206.
** Based on a despatch from H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague.

†† See *Industrial and Labour Information*, 2nd March, 1923, and *Industria* (the journal of the Swedish Employers' Federation), 20th February, 1923.
†† See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1922, page 478.

February for the extension, for a further period of three years, of the Hours of Work Act and the Act Governing Hours of Work on Swedish Vessels, both of these being provisional measures which expire on 31st December, 1923. In both cases it is held that, while it is not desirable at present, after such a limited experience of their working, to replace the provisional Acts by definitive measures, there is no justification for repealing them.

With regard to the first of the Acts,* the Bill now introduced recommends its extension, subject to slight amendments, of which the chief is that the amount of overtime allowed without special permit is increased from 30 to 40 hours a month, and the further amount which may be authorised by the Labour Council, from 20 to 30 hours, the present annual limits of 200 and 120 hours respectively being retained. It is hoped that this will meet the employers' objections to the restriction of overtime in periods of extra pressure, without diminishing the measure of protection afforded to the worker by the present Act.

The second Bill provides that the Act of 24th October, 1919 (Hours of Work on Swedish Vessels), shall be prolonged for three years, with very slight modifications. The Board of Trade, which administers the Act, is of opinion that it has fulfilled its objects, and that the misgivings as to its effects have proved to be exaggerated. The original Act provides that, in general, the working hours of ordinary seamen may not exceed 24 hours in 48 consecutive hours, and where the crews, or sections of crews, exceed a specified number, the working hours must not exceed 16 in 48 consecutive hours. Captains, first mates, first engineers, doctors, telegraph operators, stewards and various others are expressly excluded from the Act. In harbour the daily working hours of seamen are to be seven in the tropics and eight elsewhere. Overtime payment may be demanded in certain conditions, but no seaman may work more than 18 hours' overtime a week.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE INDIAN COTTON INDUSTRY IN 1921.

THE hours of labour and earnings in the cotton mill industry in May, 1921, in the Bombay Presidency, form the subject of a report† recently issued by the Labour Office of the Government of Bombay. The report is the first of a series which will cover all trades in the Presidency. It is believed that such statistics will "remove a considerable amount of misunderstanding which prevailed in the absence of such authoritative figures collected by an impartial agency. Such information ought to be invaluable in times of industrial unrest."

The enquiry was carried out by means of forms sent to the employers in the chief cotton centres, and the returns received cover over 194,000 workpeople, or over 80 per cent. of the total number employed. They show that for the majority of men workers the average daily earnings in May, 1921, exclusive of overtime, annual bonus, etc., ranged between 12 annas and 1 rupee 8 annas, and for the majority of women between 8 annas and 1 rupee. In Sholapur, however, the average was distinctly lower for both sexes.

The following Table shows the percentage increase in average monthly earnings of full-time workers in May, 1921, as compared with May, 1914, classified according to district and sex:—

Increase in full time monthly earnings in May, 1921, as compared with May, 1914.					
	Bombay (City and Island).	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Other Centres.	Average for Bombay Presidency.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Men	90	121	82	112	96
Women	73	96	87	140	84
Lads (14 to 18) & children†	92	158	124	100	119
All workpeople	87	122	94	111	96

As the cost of living had risen by 67 per cent. only in the same period, the increase in the real wages of male operatives in Bombay since 1914 was about 14 per cent.

The number of daily hours worked varied between $9\frac{1}{2}$ and $10\frac{3}{4}$ for men, $9\frac{1}{2}$ and $10\frac{1}{2}$ for women, and 5 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ for children, the legal maximum hours in force at that time being 12, 11 and 6 respectively. A new Act which came into force in July, 1922, fixes the maximum hours at 11 a day and 60 a week for men and women and 6 a day for children.§

REDUCTIONS IN WAGES IN AUSTRALIA IN 1922.¶

INVESTIGATIONS made by the Commonwealth Statistician at Melbourne show that during 1922, throughout Australia, changes in wages took place which resulted in an average reduction per head per week of 2s. 3d. among the 628,116 workpeople

affected. The average decrease was greatest in Queensland (3s. 9d.) and least in South Australia and Victoria (1s. 6d.). In preparing the statistics consideration has been given to all changes which occurred through the operations of wage tribunals or as the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople.

The net result of wage changes in each State of the Commonwealth during 1922 is shown in the following Table:—

States.	Number of Changes.	Number of Workpeople Affected.	Total Decrease per Week.	Average Decrease per Head per Week.
New South Wales	444	363,909	£ 42,930	s. d. 2 4
Victoria	137	90,172	6,625	1 6
Queensland	132	78,791	14,836	3 9
South Australia	131	35,722	2,687	1 6
Western Australia	60	18,547	1,589	1 9
Tasmania	64	16,038	1,701	2 1
Federal Territory	1	337	56	3 4
All States	3	24,600	138	0 1
TOTAL	972	628,116	70,562	2 3

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN HOLLAND.*

THE system of fixing labour conditions by "collective bargaining" has become widespread in Holland. In 1922 there were in force 713 collective agreements covering 20,900 undertakings giving employment to 257,600 workers. For some considerable time both employers' and workers' organisations have been considering means for extending the conditions fixed by collective agreements to non-organised employers and workers, and various stipulations to this end have been embodied in agreements, e.g., the contracting employers have undertaken to apply the conditions to non-organised workers in their employment, or workers belonging to the contracting unions have been prohibited from working for non-organised employers on less favourable conditions. Attempts have also been made to enforce membership of an organisation by employers pledging themselves not to employ non-organised workers, and workers not to work for non-organised employers.

A committee of the Supreme Council of Labour† appointed to consider the question, in a report published at the end of 1922, declared itself in favour of satisfying the demand for legislative measures to enforce uniform conditions of labour. As a means to this end the committee rejects compulsory membership of a trade organisation in favour of the possibility of declaring important collective agreements binding for a whole trade or district. The committee recommends the adoption of the German method, by which the Ministry of Labour is empowered to declare the terms of any collective agreement generally binding throughout the whole of a trade or district at the request of either of the parties or of any association of employers or workers likely to be affected by those terms.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN HOLLAND IN 1922.‡

THE following should be substituted for the last two lines of the article on the above subject in the GAZETTE for March, page 89:—

Of the 288 strikes which terminated in 1922, 19.4 per cent. ended in favour of the workers, 26.0 per cent. to their disadvantage, 44.5 per cent. in a compromise, while in 10.1 per cent. the result is not yet known.

Of the 18 lockouts which terminated in 1922, 5 were settled in favour of the employers, 3 against them, while 10 ended in compromises.

OLD AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN ITALY.

A RECENT issue of the Italian review, *La Riforma Sociale*, contains an article by Signor F. Insolera, of Turin, which, under the title "Bankruptcy of the Italian System of Insurance Against Old Age and Invalidity," criticises the working of the Decree dated 21st April, 1919, which introduced this branch of compulsory insurance.§

The writer is of opinion that the principle of compulsion is applied with undue rigour, not only with regard to the Treasury, which undertakes to supplement every policy by a gift of 100 lire, irrespective of the sum assured, but also for the employers, who are made responsible for all contributions. It is stated that, without providing for administrative expenses, the cost of benefits to ten million insured persons (the estimated initial number subject to insurance), would exceed by 37 per cent. the value of the contributions received. No provision,

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1919, page 421, and July, 1921, page 344.

† Report on an Enquiry into the Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton Mill Industry, by G. Findlay Shirras. Labour Office, Government of Bombay, 1923. A summary of the report appears in the *Bombay Labour Gazette*, January, 1923.

‡ Counting two half timers as one full timer.

§ See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, April, 1922, page 159.

¶ Melbourne Leader, 10th February, 1923.

* Maandschrift (the journal of the Central Statistical Office), 31st January, 1923.

† For an account of the composition and functions of this body, see LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1919, page 518.

‡ Maandschrift (the journal of the Central Statistical Office), 31st January, 1923.

§ An article describing the main features of the Decree appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1920, p. 10.

it is alleged, was made in the Decree for administrative expenses, nor did it contain any indication of the method for defraying them.

Basing his calculations upon official figures, the writer further contends that in 1921 the number of persons actually insured was only 2,250,000.

To a certain extent the Italian system was an imitation of that in operation in Germany, but it is contended that the legislature had not recognised the difference in mentality between Italian and German workpeople; nor had they paid due regard to the fact that, whilst in Germany the proportion of agricultural workers to the total number of workers is less than one-third, in Italy the proportion is two-thirds. As a result, only 300,000 out of the six million agricultural workers—barely 5 per cent.—have been insured. The statistics indeed imply that in all parts of the country the agricultural workers have ignored the Act.

The writer makes the following estimate with regard to the condition of the insurance scheme in 1921 :—

Number insured	2,250,000
Cost of pensions assured	4,500,000,000 lire
Total ultimate amount of contributions, less administrative expenses	3,250,000,000 „
Actuarial deficit	1,250,000,000 „

PROGRESS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN GERMANY.

IN the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1922 (p. 326), official figures were given showing the growth of the system of collective bargaining in Germany since the Armistice. By the end of 1920 the number of workers whose conditions of labour were regulated by collective agreements had increased to 9,561,000, as compared with 1,128,000 at the end of 1918. Statistics published in the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* of 1st February, 1923, show that at the end of 1921 a total of 12,883,000 workers was covered by such agreements—i.e., nearly 12 times the number recorded immediately after the Armistice.

As regards the incidence of collective agreements in the various branches of production a noteworthy change observable in 1921 was the great increase in the relative importance of agriculture. From less than 1 per cent. at the end of 1920 agriculture has advanced to a proportion of 12.8 per cent. of all workers covered by agreements at the end of 1921, and in this respect now ranks between the metal and engineering group of trades (20.2 per cent.) and the mining and smelting group (12.1 per cent.).

COLLECTION OF STRIKE STATISTICS IN GERMANY : NEW REGULATIONS.*

UNDER the law of 22nd July, 1922,† establishing a system of local Employment Exchanges throughout Germany these Exchanges are charged with the duty of collecting statistics of labour disputes, a task which has hitherto devolved upon the local police.

Under regulations for carrying out the above-mentioned law, recently issued by the Federal Employment Department, employers are bound, under penalty, to forward information concerning any strike or lock-out to the local employment exchange within a week after the termination of the dispute. The points on which information is required include the following:—The number, character and locality of the establishments affected; in the case of a partial strike or lock-out, what individual occupations or departments were affected; the duration of the dispute in working days; the number of persons employed in the establishments at the commencement of the conflict; the maximum number of persons on strike or lock-out and of those involuntarily unemployed on any day during the stoppage; the loss in number of working days; in cases of widespread strikes or lock-outs, information as to the establishments affected, and the localities or areas in which they were situated; the number of workpeople in establishments which did not take part, but which had to cease work; what efforts were made for the settlement of the dispute; the chief motives of the dispute from the points of view of the employer and the workpeople respectively; the chief results with regard to increase or decrease of wages, extension or shortening of hours, holiday leave, termination or prolongation of a collective agreement; the conduct of a dispute by organisations; resolutions passed by such bodies with reference to the dispute; the economic injuries caused by the conflict. Every organisation of employers and workpeople has the right (but is not compelled) to make a report concerning a dispute, by which means a comprehensive view may be obtained, especially when the movement extends over the areas of several employment exchanges.

The regulations became operative on 1st February. Information concerning strikes and lock-outs which occurred during January, 1923, is to be obtained, so that all disputes which have occurred since the beginning of the year will be covered by the new regulations. It is stated that the reorganisation above described will not invalidate comparison of future statistics as to labour disputes with those for previous years.

* *Soziale Praxis*, 15th February, 1923.

† For a *précis* of this law, see the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1922, p. 355.

WORKS COMMITTEES SECRETARIAT IN THE CZECHO-SLOVAK METAL INDUSTRY.*

IN December last a commission of members of works committees in the metal industry of Czechoslovakia was appointed to organise a Works Committees Secretariat, the functions of which will be:—(1) To compile statistics relating to these committees in the metal industry; (2) to act as intermediary between the trade unions and the committees in that industry; (3) to collect information on the activities of works committees; (4) to consider amendments to the Works Committees Act; (5) to compile and publish statistics on the decisions of arbitration committees; (6) to give advice to members of the committees; (7) to organise courses of instruction on the interpretation and working of the Works Committees Act; and (8) to edit handbooks and other publications on subjects of interest to the committees.

In Czechoslovakia official recognition of the Works Council movement began with the Act of 25th February, 1920, which established councils for mines and allied undertakings. This was followed by a general Works Committees Act of 12th August, 1921, which provides for the establishment of a works committee in every undertaking which regularly employs at least 30 workers. Mines are excluded, being dealt with in the Act already mentioned, and railways and other public undertakings were to be provided for by later Decrees.† The expenses of the committees are shared equally between the employer and the workers. The general function of the committees is to “watch over and promote the economic, social and intellectual interests of the employees in the works.” Their more specific functions include the supervision of the observance of collective agreements, of the carrying out of the awards of conciliation and arbitration boards, and of legislation for the protection of the health and safety of the workers (the last in conjunction with the factory inspectors), and co-operation in the maintenance of discipline and order in the works and the promotion of good relations between the employer and the workers. They have also the right to examine wage and salary lists and to make suggestions for technical improvements in plant and safety appliances. With regard to the discharge of workers, they have merely an advisory position, and no voice in the engagement of workers. When it is proposed to dismiss a worker of three years' standing, the management is bound to notify the committee; if the committee consider the dismissal unjustifiable, they may appeal to the arbitration board.‡ If the board decide in the worker's favour, he must be reinstated or compensated. The committees are specially prohibited from interfering in the management and working of the undertaking. In certain large undertakings of the nature of public companies the committees may send delegates to the meetings of the board of management and the supervising board, but these have no right to vote.

AUSTRIAN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT : FURTHER AMENDMENTS.

SINCE the issue of the amending and codifying Act of 19th July, 1922, an account of which was given in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for January (page 10), further amendments of the Austrian unemployment insurance system have been found necessary. These are largely of a provisional character and are due to the economic crisis. The following are the most important§:—

By an Act of 15th December, 1922, unemployed persons who have already been in receipt of benefit for the maximum period of 30 weeks may receive benefit for a further 12 weeks provided that they have been in employment for 10 weeks continuously either (a) subsequent to the 30 weeks' period, or (b) within the last 30 weeks before the new claim is made. The Industrial District Commissions may be empowered to grant to unemployed Austrians who have exhausted the 30 weeks' benefit and who are in necessitous circumstances, extraordinary emergency relief not exceeding the maximum benefit under the law. (This relief was extended under an Act of 3rd February last to workers belonging to States which pay equivalent benefits to Austrian workers.) The Act of 15th December also abolished the “waiting period” for short-time workers, and made an alteration in the proportion of the contributions to be paid by the State, the employers and workers. In future the employers and workers will pay in equal shares 80 per cent. (instead of two-thirds) of the contributions, and of the 20 per cent. to be paid by the State part will be recovered from the communes. The share of the communes was fixed by the Act of 3rd February at 4 per cent., so that in future the State will pay only 16 per cent. of the total expenditure on unemployment relief, instead of 33½ per cent. as formerly.

In view of the recent Order permitting increases in rents an Order of 7th December granted to unemployed persons in receipt of relief a monthly allowance in aid of rent equal to one day's unemployment benefit. (At that time the maximum daily benefit was 10,000 kronen; it has since been raised to 12,480 kronen.)

By an Order of 30th January, the contributions of workers and employers were increased from 20 to 60 per cent. of the health insurance contributions.

The chief provision of the Act of 3rd February, apart from those noted above, is one prescribing that all employers who, on 5th February, 1923, employed at least 5 workers insurable under

* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 23rd February.

† Special decrees have now been issued for railways and Government tobacco factories.

‡ A body created for the purpose of this Act, consisting of six members, two nominated by the trade unions, two by the employers' association, one by the Government, with a judicial official having industrial experience as Chairman.

§ *Ämtliche Nachrichten des Oesterreichischen Staatsamtes für Soziale Verwaltung*, 15th January and 20th February, 1923.

the Health Insurance Act, shall pay, in advance of unemployment insurance contributions, for each worker liable to such insurance, a sum of 20,000 kronen in two instalments. As from 1st January, 1924, one-fifth of these advance payments will be deducted monthly from the employer's contributions. If these advance payments are not made on the prescribed dates they will be subject to 10 per cent. interest, which is not recoverable.

ABOLITION OF COMPULSORY ARBITRATION IN NORWAY.*

At the end of March, 1921, the provisional Compulsory Arbitration Act of 9th June, 1916, which had been renewed from year to year was allowed to lapse.† In the spring of 1922 a Bill on similar lines was passed with Socialist support, and the Compulsory Arbitration Court thereby established regulated the wages and working conditions of a large number of workers in several important industries, including metal working and engineering, building and sawmilling. The 1922 Act lapsed on 1st April, 1923, and in anticipation of extensive labour disputes likely to arise on the expiry of a large number of collective agreements on 31st March and 30th April,‡ of which the employers had already given notice of termination, the Government in February brought in a Bill for the renewal of the Act. This year Socialist support was refused to the Bill, and it was rejected by both Houses of the Storting in March.

UNITED STATES COAL COMMISSION : FIRST REPORT.

THE following particulars, communicated to the International Labour Office at Geneva by the United States Coal Commission,§ are taken from *Industrial and Labour Information*|| of 16th February, 1923 :—

The first task of the Commission has been to acquaint itself with the organisation and general conditions of the industry throughout the country, with the aid of expert assistance.

The difference between conditions in the anthracite and in the bituminous branches of the industry are so marked that the Commission has almost entirely confined itself to the bituminous branch in this report. The capital invested in the industry is, roughly, \$2,330,000,000, and of this no less than \$1,900,000,000 are invested in the bituminous fields. There are only 174 producers of anthracite, and eight of these control over 70 per cent. of the annual output, while there are at least 6,000 producers of soft coal, operating 9,000 mines.

Conditions in the bituminous coal industry vary widely from district to district and even from mine to mine. The coal is distributed by some hundreds of large wholesalers and perhaps 3,500 smaller middlemen and by about 38,000 retail coal dealers. The combined charges of the railway, the wholesaler and the retailer in most localities are found to exceed the price of the coal at the mines.

"The record of production and distribution of coal in recent years may be summed up in the word 'instability,' and this instability in supply of one of the most fundamental of all raw materials has been an important cause in unsettling business and in delaying the return to normal conditions."

This instability has been attributed to two main causes—profiteering and labour troubles. With regard to profiteering, the Commission has decided to undertake a thorough examination of the profits of production and distribution for the past ten years. With a view to preventing labour troubles, the Commission appealed to the Joint Meeting of the Coal Owners and Union Miners at Chicago to do all in their power to secure peace in the industry. It is also endeavouring to promote industrial peace by ascertaining and publishing trustworthy data on wage rates and earnings, the value of employment, the costs and profits of the industry, the competition of other fields, and coal produced by non-union miners, the effect upon the industry of provisions for the check-off of trade union dues, participation in management or limitation of freedom of management, the methods used by union miners to organise non-union fields, and the methods used by the owners to prevent such organisation.

Dealing with the question of transport, the Commission finds that the "car shortage," to which the scarcity and high prices of coal are often attributed, is not always due to insufficient coal-carrying equipment alone. In part it has been due to the fact that upon the resumption of work after a stoppage the railways are asked to carry extra coal to make up the deficit caused by the stoppage.

Underlying the immediate causes of scarcity and high prices—labour difficulties and transportation deficiency—there are other causes, namely, the irregularity of demand and the over-development of the mining industry. Since 1890 the bituminous mines have averaged over the country as a whole only 213 working days out of a possible working year of 308 days. During this period the time lost because of strikes has averaged nine days a year, or less than 10 per cent. of the time lost for all causes combined. The preliminary studies of the Commission show that even in times of maximum demand the miners as a whole do not work

full time. "Although the country has never been able to absorb in a year more than 579,000,000 tons of bituminous coal, the present capacity of the mines is well above 800,000,000 tons."

The Commission points out that while the number of miners employed increased from 556,000 in 1910 to 663,000 in 1921, the total output in 1921 was less than in 1910, although the output of the individual miner has not decreased.

The average daily output of the individual miner in 1921 was 4½ tons, as against 3½ tons in 1910. This difference is attributable in part to the increased use of machinery, but the fact stands out that in 1910 the average bituminous mine was operating 217 days, as against 149 days in 1921.

This condition of over-development means unemployment to the coal miners and a direct loss to their earning power. It explains the need and demand for a day wage rate higher than the average of most other industries, adversely affects the profits of the owners and imposes a burden on the consumer. The Commission is convinced that there can be no permanent peace in the industry while this instability continues.

The Commission is making inquiries into the relative importance of various causes which may have led to this over-development, such as the policy of railways in regard to encouraging the opening of new mines and new mine fields as sources of revenue, coal distribution rules that permit, if they do not encourage, larger capacity than the market obviously requires, the opening of new mines by large consumers, the establishment of freight rates which encourage the development of new fields, changes in centres of consumption leading to the abandonment of old fields and the exploitation of new ones, the difference between union and non-union wage rates, large scale supervision in the unionised fields and irregularity of demand.

As an immediate step the Commission recommends the storage of coal by consumers during the spring and summer; but it is of the opinion that its inquiry "involves the whole question as to what is best for the people—free competition, Government or private ownership, regulation or control in the coal industry. It may be that both private property in an exhaustible resource and labour in a public service industry must submit to certain modifications of their private rights, receiving in return certain grants and privileges not accorded to purely private business or persons in private employ."

NEW AGREEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES BITUMINOUS COAL FIELDS.*

AN important clause in the agreement arrived at on the termination of the strike in the bituminous coalfields in the United States in August, 1922,† provided for the calling of a joint conference at Cleveland in October, 1922, for the purpose of appointing a committee to formulate a method of negotiation for a new wage agreement to become effective on 1st April, 1923.

A conference of representatives of the miners and mine owners was duly convened at Cleveland, when it was agreed that the existing wage agreement should remain in force until 1st April, 1923, before which date a further conference should be called to formulate a plan for future negotiations. Such a conference met in Chicago, but it accomplished nothing. A further conference was, however, held at New York at the beginning of the present year, at which a new agreement was concluded on 24th January. The agreement is practically the same as that which expired on 1st April last, and covers the tri-State competitive fields in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, which, together, produce about 36 per cent. of the total bituminous coal output of the country. The agreement is to continue in force for a year, until 1st April, 1924. It provides for a wage of \$7.50 a day for day-work, and \$1.08 a ton where miners are paid on a tonnage basis. The agreement continues the eight-hour day, the six-day week, the "check-off system," guarantees against violation of contract, and provisions for settling disputes concerning wages or working conditions.

Commenting on the results of the Conference, the President of the United Mine Workers said that "the conclusion of the wage negotiations extending existing agreements in the bituminous industry is particularly gratifying to the mineworkers."

The agreement just negotiated for the States of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio will be made the basis of agreement in all other coal-producing fields. We have assurances that contracts will rapidly be executed in all bituminous districts not embraced in this conference."

The Secretary of the Indiana Coal Owners' Association, who represented the employers at the conference, declared that the direct result of the continuation of the present agreement would be to give the non-union bituminous fields of West Virginia the bulk of the business during 1923, and he predicted that the coming year would see much unemployment in the union fields. He recalled the fact that in 1921 the union fields of Ohio worked 25 days during the year, those of Indiana 136 days, and those of Illinois about the same, while the non-union bituminous fields in West Virginia worked 200 days.

The present settlement does not affect conditions in the anthracite fields, but it is stated that it virtually assures the anthracite miners (whose agreement expires next September) that their wages will not be reduced, as these are already lower than those of bituminous miners.

* Based on despatches from H.M. Representative at Christiania of various dates in March, and on Norwegian sources.

† See LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1921, page 183.

‡ About 100,000 workers will be affected.

§ See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, December, 1922, page 479.

|| Published by the International Labour Office, Geneva.

* From New York Times, 25th January, 1923, and American Federationist, March, 1923.

† See the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1922, p. 366.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 31st MARCH, 1923.*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	...	74%
Food only	...	...	...	68%

FOOD.

DURING March there was a further decline in the average cost of the pre-war working-class dietary, due mainly to a reduction, averaging about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each, in the price of eggs. Fish and bacon were also cheaper at the end of the month than at the beginning, and the majority of other items included in the statistics were slightly cheaper, but cheese, sugar and tea were dearer, the average price of cheese rising by $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., and that of sugar and of tea by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., during the month. As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase in the retail prices of food over the level of July, 1914, fell to about 68 per cent. at 31st March,* as compared with about 71 per cent. at 1st March.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, at 1st March, 1923, and at 31st March, 1923:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated).			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 31st Mar., 1923, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1923.	31st Mar., 1923.*	July, 1914.	1st Mar., 1923.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 6	1 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Thin Flank	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 4	—
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3	—
Thin Flank	0 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 6	0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 1	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Breast	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0	1 0	+ 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Breast	0 4	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Bacon (streaky)† ..	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flour .. per 7 lb.	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 5	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 9	0 9	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	—
Tea	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 2	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Milk .. per quart	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7	0 7	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salt	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheese†	0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Margarine	0 7	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	—
Eggs (fresh) .. each	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 31st March, 1923, in relation to the prices of July, 1914, and 1st March, 1923:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 31st Mar., 1923, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st Mar., 1923.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	81	77	79	81
Thin Flank	56	60	58	60
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	41	40	41	43
Thin Flank	18	25	22	23
Mutton, British				
Legs	102	100	101	100
Breast	87	81	84	84
Mutton, Frozen				
Legs	86	77	82	84
Breast	33	32	33	36
Bacon (streaky)† ..	65	55	60	64
Fish	105	91	98	110
Flour	45	49	47	50
Bread	56	51	54	55
Tea	65	68	67	65
Sugar (granulated) ..	244	221	233	221
Milk	96	99	98	100
Butter—				
Fresh	76	85	81	83
Salt	71	74	73	75
Cheese†	98	98	98	91
Margarine	— 5	— 8	— 6	— 6
Eggs (fresh)	43	25	34	77
Potatoes	6	— 14	— 4	— 2
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	70	66	68	71

* As 1st April fell on Sunday, the statistics relate to 3rd March, in accordance with the usual practice of the Department in such cases.

† If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

‡ The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 31st March, 1923, was about 50 per cent. Of the total increase somewhat less than one-half is accounted for by increases in rates and water charges, and about one-third is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Act falling within the remainder.

As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 31st March the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, was about the same as a month earlier, and about 125 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the average increase in the retail prices of coal at 31st March, as compared with July, 1914, was about 90 per cent., or the same as a month earlier. For gas the average percentage increase was about 65 per cent. above the pre-war level, as compared with between 70 and 75 per cent. a month earlier. For lamp oil and for candles the average percentage increases, as compared with July, 1914, were about 70 per cent. and 35 per cent. respectively, or about the same as a month earlier. For matches also there was no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase, as compared with July, 1914, was about 85 per cent., or slightly lower than at 1st March.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 85 per cent.), the resultant figure for 31st March, 1923, is approximately 74 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 76 per cent. at 1st March.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1923 as in 1914) is to show the *average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families* (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1923.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1915. The figure for 31st March is lower than that for any date since April, 1917:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items.
(Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, &c.)

Month (beginning of).	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76
April ..	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82	74†
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	—
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	—
July ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	—
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	—
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	—
October ..	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	—
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	—

NOTE.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1921, contained a full account of the scope and method of compilation of the above statistics.

* If the amount of increased taxation on commodities is deducted, the average increase at 31st March, 1923, is about 5 per cent. less.

† As 1st April fell on Sunday, the statistics relate to 31st March, in accordance with the usual practice of the Department in such cases.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

ALTHOUGH employment generally was still bad during March, the gradual improvement which had been in progress since the beginning of the year was maintained. At coal mines, in tinplate and steel sheet manufacture, and in the carpet industry, employment was good; in the worsted trade it was fairly good; and in the iron and steel, woollen, hosiery, ready-made clothing, furnishing, leather and paper trades it was fair. In most of the other large industries it was still slack; but a further improvement was reported in the iron-mining, pig-iron, engineering, shipbuilding, boot and shoe, building, woodworking and pottery industries.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.*

Among 1,184,400 members of Trades Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 12·3 at the end of March, as compared with 13·1 at the end of February and 16·3 at the end of March, 1922. Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,750,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 26th March was 11·1, as compared with 11·8 at 26th February and 14·4 at the end of March, 1922. For males alone the percentage was 12·4 at 26th March, as compared with 13·4 at 26th February; for females the corresponding figures were 7·6 and 7·7. The number of workpeople on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges at 26th March was approximately 1,289,000, of whom men numbered 999,500 and women 213,500, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 26th February was 1,376,000, of whom 1,073,000 were men and 218,000 women. It should also be noted that some unemployed persons—e.g., some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts—do not register at the Employment Exchanges, and the Live Register figures, therefore, do not indicate the total number unemployed.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the coal mining industry continued good and showed an improvement. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th March was 1,146,942, an increase of 0·6 per cent. as compared with a month ago and of 5·8 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th March was 5·63, as compared with 5·50 in February and 5·17 in March, 1922.

At iron mines employment showed a further slight improvement, though it was still bad in the Cleveland district; in other districts it was generally fair. At the mines covered by the returns received there was an increase of 0·4 per cent. in the total number employed compared with February, and an increase of over 70 per cent. compared with March of last year. The average number of days worked per week by the mines was 5·53 in March, 1923, 5·38 in February, 1923, and 5·18 in March, 1922. At shale mines employment continued fair. With limestone quarrymen it was good in the Buxton area, fair in the Clitheroe district, and moderate in the Weardale district. Employment was reported as bad at chalk quarries, and at road-stone quarries in the Clee Hill district; it was moderate at stone quarries in the Stanton-in-Peak and Rowsley districts, and at whinstone quarries in East Scotland. At slate quarries there was a slight decline, but employment was still fair on the whole; it also continued fair at granite quarries. At china clay quarries it was fairly good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment was still bad, but showed a further improvement. Of a total of 487 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of March was 202, as compared with 189 at the end of February and 107 at the end of March, 1922. At iron and steel works employment continued fair on the whole; it was still only moderate, however, in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, and continued very quiet at Leeds. In the tinplate and steel sheet trades employment was good; at the end of March 509 mills were reported to be in operation, the same number as at the end of February; at the end of March, 1922, the number reported as working was 445.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades was still bad, but continued to improve in the majority of districts; in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades it remained very bad, but also showed a further slight improvement as compared with the previous month. In the other metal trades employment, though slack generally, was somewhat better than in the previous month; it was fair or fairly good in the brass hollow-ware, tube, wire, sheet-metal, needle and fishing-hook and fishing tackle trades; very quiet in the stove and range making trade; slack in the bedstead, cutlery and chain and anchor trades; and bad in the lock and latch and jewellery and plated ware trades.

Textile Trades.—During March employment continued good in the section of the cotton trade spinning Egyptian cotton, the great majority of firms continuing to work full time. On the other hand, it was very bad, and worse than in the previous

month, in the section spinning American cotton. In the manufacturing section employment continued very poor. In the woollen and worsted trades there was little general change during the month. The wool sorting and combing branches showed a slight decline in some sections, but in some branches of the wool spinning trade there was a slight improvement. In the hosiery trade employment remained fair on the whole, but showed a further slight decline as compared with the previous month. In the silk trade it continued bad in the Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton district, and fair in the Eastern Counties. Employment in the lace trade continued bad on the whole; in the carpet trade it showed an improvement and was good. In the linen trade employment continued slack in Scotland; in Ireland it was bad on the whole. In the Dundee jute industry employment was suspended towards the end of the month owing to a dispute. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment continued slack on the whole; it was fair, however, with hosiery dyers, trimmers and finishers at Leicester and Basford, and good with silk dyers at Leek and Macclesfield.

Clothing Trades.—In the ready-made branch of the clothing trade employment continued fair; in the bespoke branch it improved and was fair on the whole. In the felt hat trade employment continued quiet; in the shirt and collar trades it was moderate. In the boot and shoe trades employment showed some improvement; it continued slack, however, and much short time was worked, especially in the heavy boot trade.

In the leather trades employment showed a slight improvement, and was fair in the tanning and currying section; it continued fair in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section, and bad with saddle and harness makers.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades employment continued slack generally, but showed a further slight improvement on the whole. With painters it again showed a marked seasonal improvement; with builders' labourers and workpeople employed on construction of works it was generally bad. In the brick trades employment showed some improvement, but continued moderate on the whole; it was, however, generally fair in the Peterborough and South Staffordshire districts, and bad in the Nottingham and Birmingham districts.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed a further improvement and was fair. With coachbuilders there was also an improvement, and employment was good in London and fairly good on the whole in other districts. With mill-sawyers and machinists, packing case makers and coopers employment was slack on the whole; with brush and basket makers it was fair.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued fair on the whole. In the printing trade employment with letterpress printers was generally fair, and was reported as better than a month ago in most of the principal centres, including London; it was reported as very good with electrotypers and stereotypers in London and Edinburgh, but was generally slack with lithographic printers. In the bookbinding trade employment was slack on the whole, though an improvement was reported in London; short time was worked in most centres.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trades employment continued bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month; in the glass trades it also continued bad.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture the supply of labour was usually more than sufficient for requirements, but with the better weather there were rather less casual workers unemployed than during the previous month. In the fishing industry employment was fair on the whole.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment among dock labourers continued slack, but was slightly better than in the previous month. With seamen it was slack on the whole, and at most of the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain berths.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed (a) among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained and (b) among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland month by month since January, 1922.

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.
1922.		
January	16·8	16·0
February	16·3	15·5
March	16·3	14·4
April	17·0	14·4
May	16·4	13·5
June	15·7	12·7
July	14·6	12·3
August	14·4	12·0
September	14·6	12·0
October	14·0	12·0
November	14·2	12·4
December	14·0	12·2
1923.		
January	13·7	12·7
February	13·1	11·8
March	12·3	11·1

Further details and statistics as to the state of employment in a number of the principal industries are given on pages 131-135.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE UNIONS with a net membership of 1,184,400 in branches covered by the returns received reported 145,894 (or 12·3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1923, compared with 13·1 per cent. at the end of February, 1923, and 16·3 per cent. at the end of March, 1922. The figures are analysed below :—

Trade.	Member-ship of Unions reporting at end of March, 1923.	Unemployed at end of March, 1923.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-age.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building†	124,446	11,100	8·9	..	+ 1·8
Coal Mining	134,334	8,144	6·1	..	— 7·0
Engineering and Ship-building	419,166	93,187	22·2	— 1·9	— 7·3
Miscellaneous Metal ..	55,726	5,053	9·1	— 0·4	— 6·0
Textiles :—					
Cotton	61,288	5,616	9·2†	+ 1·6	+ 1·0
Woollen and Worsted	12,235	138	1·1	..	— 1·5
Other	57,464	2,333	4·1	— 0·3	— 0·9
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	94,295	4,588	4·9	— 0·8	— 2·3
Furnishing	24,510	1,682	6·9	— 0·5	+ 0·1
Woodworking	44,550	2,330	5·2	— 1·2	— 5·0
Clothing :—					
Boot and Shoe	73,012	3,677	5·0	— 0·1	+ 0·3
Other Clothing	43,031	1,114	2·6	— 0·5	— 0·3
Leather	6,724	592	8·8	+ 0·1	— 2·2
Glass	1,241	34	2·7	— 0·4	— 2·5
Pottery	27,500	4,600	16·7	— 1·0	— 3·2
Tobacco‡	4,878	1,706	35·0	+ 3·0	— 41·5
Total	1,184,400	145,894	12·3	— 0·8	— 4·0

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11·1 per cent. (males, 12·4 per cent., females 7·6 per cent.) at 26th March, as compared with 11·8 (males, 13·4 per cent., females, 7·7 per cent.) at 26th February. A Table showing the estimated number insured and the numbers and percentages unemployed in the principal industries appears on page 137.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in March, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 131 to 135.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for March, 1923.	March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	1,146,942	Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days	Days.
Iron	9,406	5·63	+ 0·13	+ 0·46
Shale	3,641	5·53	+ 0·15	+ 0·35
		5·79	— 0·16	— 0·10
Pig Iron .. .. .	..	Furnaces in Blast	Number.	Number.
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	..	487	+ 13	+ 95
		Mills Working	..	+ 64
		509		
Iron and Steel	79,936	Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
		432,241	+ 1·1	+ 44·1

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 24th March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	Week ended 24th March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a
		Month ago.		Month ago.
Textiles :—				
Cotton	86,558	Per cent. — 0·2	£ 150,209	Per cent. — 1·7
Woollen	17,068	+ 0·0	35,703	+ 0·5
Worsted	30,116	+ 0·2	59,216	— 0·4
Boot and Shoe ..	49,922	+ 1·1	115,965	+ 2·8
Pottery	11,977	+ 1·4	22,838	+ 3·6
Brick	6,140	+ 1·3	14,278	+ 8·9
Total	201,781	+ 0·3	398,209	+ 0·6

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked-out are also excluded.

† The percentage is based on returns relating to woodworkers and plumbers, and as regards woodworkers, who constitute the bulk of the membership reported on the returns, relate to January.

‡ In addition to those totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit."

§ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.

¶ Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

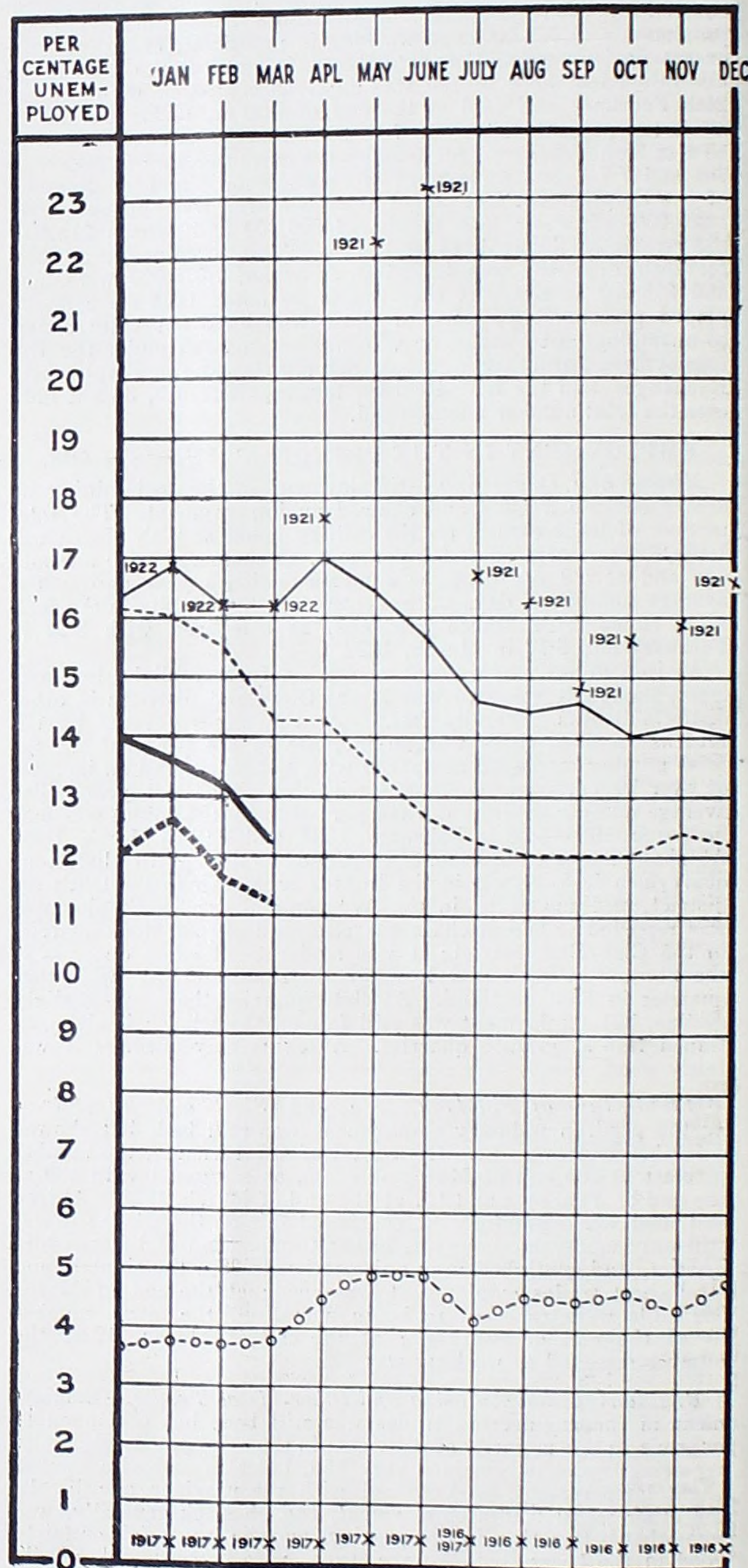
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS :—

Thick Curve ————— = 1923.
Thin Curve ————— = 1922.
Chain Curve —o—o—o—o—o = Mean of 1913–22.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1893–1922.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORK-PEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT :—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - 1923.
Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - 1922.



NOTE.

The Trade Union returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.

The figures for insured workpeople relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and exclude the Irish Free State. Detailed figures are given on page 137.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males and females, of adults and juveniles, and of skilled and unskilled workers in the respective industries. The particulars given relate only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued good and showed an improvement as compared with both the previous month and a year ago. The average weekly number of days (5.63) worked by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th March, showed an increase of 0.13 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th February, and of 0.46 of a day on a year ago. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 24th March showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. on the number at 24th February, and of 5.8 per cent. on a year ago.

The proportion of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.6 per cent. at 26th March, as compared with 4.1 per cent. at 26th February.

The following Table shows, for the principal districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books, and the average number of days worked by the collieries, as indicated by the returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*			
	24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Month ago.	Year ago.			
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ..	61,314	+ 0.3	+ 6.4	5.47	—	+ 0.17
Durham ..	167,395	+ 0.7	+ 12.4	5.44	+ 0.44	+ 0.20
Cumberland and Westmorland ..	11,712	+ 1.6	+ 5.0	5.70	— 0.01	+ 0.20
South Yorkshire ..	108,392	+ 1.3	+ 4.6	5.62	+ 0.08	+ 0.27
West Yorkshire ..	67,136	+ 0.8	+ 2.8	5.79	+ 0.10	+ 0.92
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	104,949	— 0.1	+ 0.1	5.64	+ 0.43	+ 1.17
Derbyshire ..	64,191	+ 0.4	+ 2.9	5.81	+ 0.04	+ 0.91
Notts. and Leicester ..	63,788	+ 0.5	+ 2.4	5.64	+ 0.06	+ 0.80
Warwick ..	21,677	— 0.1	— 1.5	5.95	+ 0.01	+ 0.73
North Staffordshire ..	34,688	+ 0.6	+ 2.1	5.80	+ 0.13	+ 0.79
South Staffs.,† Worc. and Salop ..	35,047	+ 0.3	+ 4.7	5.92	— 0.02	+ 0.27
Glouc. and Somerset ..	14,286	— 0.4	+ 1.3	5.75	+ 0.19	+ 0.64
Kent ..	1,834	+ 1.7	+ 28.9	5.50	— 0.19	+ 0.59
North Wales ..	17,492	+ 0.2	+ 9.5	5.96	+ 0.11	+ 0.71
South Wales and Mon.	236,565	+ 0.8	+ 8.0	5.65	+ 0.03	—
England and Wales	1,010,466	+ 0.6	+ 5.7	5.65	+ 0.16	+ 0.45
SCOTLAND.						
Mid & East Lothians ..	15,423	+ 0.8	+ 4.9	5.35	—	+ 0.41
Fife and Clackmannan ..	29,964	+ 1.0	+ 7.4	5.56	+ 0.02	+ 0.28
Rest of Scotland ..	91,089	+ 0.9	+ 6.3	5.49	— 0.04	+ 0.57
Scotland ..	136,476	+ 0.9	+ 6.4	5.49	— 0.02	+ 0.49
Great Britain ..	1,146,942	+ 0.6	+ 5.8	5.63	+ 0.13	+ 0.46

The average weekly number of coal-winding days lost by the pits in the fortnight ended 24th March was 0.13 of a day, of which 0.06 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. In the fortnight ended 24th February the average time lost was 0.27 of a day, of which 0.17 of a day was due to transport difficulties and want of trade. For the fortnight ended 25th March, 1922, the average time lost was 0.58 of a day, nearly all due to the same causes. The non-winding time in each of these periods was about one-quarter of a day.

The output of coal in Great Britain in the four weeks ended 24th March, 1923, was returned to the Mines Department at 22,702,600 tons, compared with 22,246,800 tons in the four weeks ended 24th February, and with 19,921,000 tons in the four weeks ended 25th March, 1922.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 9,084,334 tons, or 1,291,493 tons more than in February.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron &c., was got and drawn from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.
† Including Cannock Chase.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron.—Employment during March continued bad in the Cleveland district, but there was an improvement in the average amount of time worked as compared with February. In other districts employment, taken as a whole, was fair.

The following Table summarises the returns received from those employers who furnished information for each of the three periods under review:—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fort-night ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Year ago.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ..	3,524	— 0.1	+ 88.9	5.09	+ 0.44
Cumberland and Lancashire ..	4,495	+ 0.5	+ 73.8	5.84	— 0.16
Other Districts ..	1,387	+ 1.4	+ 32.6	5.64	+ 0.43
All Districts ..	9,406	+ 0.4	+ 71.0	5.53	+ 0.35

Shale.—Employment was fair, and about the same as in the previous month. At mines employing 3,641 workpeople in the fortnight ended 24th March, there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the total number employed compared with the previous month, and an increase of 10.2 per cent. compared with March, 1922. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.79, compared with 5.95 in February and with 5.89 in March last year.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during March continued bad, but showed a further improvement and was much better than a year ago.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, as shown by returns collected by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, was 202, compared with 189 at the end of February and 107 at the end of March, 1922.

Returns received by the Federation from 86 firms employing 22,818 workpeople at the end of March showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. compared with the end of February and 33½ per cent. as compared with March, 1922.

The following Table shows the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1923, February, 1923, and March, 1922, according to returns collected by the Federation:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in Mar., on a	
		Mar., 1923.	Feb., 1923.	Mar., 1922.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—						
Durham and Cleveland ..	115	43	40	27	+ 3	+ 16
Cumberland and W. Lancs. ..	46	17	16	12	+ 1	+ 5
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks., including Sheffield, Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants. ..	38	16	16	10	—	+ 6
Lincolnshire ..	73	35	35	19	—	+ 16
Stafford, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ..	22	16	16	7	—	+ 9
South Wales and Monmouth ..	58	19	18	12	+ 1	+ 7
Total (England and Wales) }	385	155	149	95	+ 6	+ 60
SCOTLAND ..	102	47	40	12	+ 7	+ 35
TOTAL ..	487	202	189	107	+ 13	+ 95

The production of pig iron in March amounted to 633,600 tons as compared with 543,400 tons in February and 389,800 tons in March, 1922.

* See footnote in previous column.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was good in these trades during March, and was much better than a year ago. At the end of March 509 mills, about four-fifths of the total number in existence, were reported to be in operation, the same number as at the end of February, compared with 445 a year ago.

The number of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 2,256 at 26th March, as compared with 2,575 at 26th February.

The following Table shows the number of works reported to be open and the number of mills in operation at the works covered by the returns received at the end of March, 1923:—

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	At end of March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		At end of March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate ..	74	—	+	392	—	+ 58
Steel Sheet ..	13	—	—	117	—	+ 6
TOTAL ..	87	—	+ 8	509	—	+ 64

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in March, 1923, amounted to 100,612 tons, or 4,379 tons more than in February, 1923, and 11,820 tons more than in March, 1922.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued fair on the whole and showed a marked improvement as compared with a year ago. It was still only moderate, however, in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, and continued very quiet at Leeds.

According to returns received from firms employing 79,936 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 24th March (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed at each works, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each case) showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. on the previous month, and of 44.1 per cent. on a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open in the week was 5.4, the same as in February, and 4.8 in March, 1922.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under comparison:—

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggregate number of Shifts.*		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a		Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ..	8,573	+ 0.4	+ 29.8	49,693	+ 0.2	+ 36.3
Crucible Furnaces ..	310	+ 8.8	+ 14.8	1,463	+ 14.5	+ 49.7
Bessemer Converters ..	276	— 61.5	— 66.3	1,504	— 58.9	— 54.5
Puddling Forges ..	4,854	+ 3.9	+ 48.5	23,653	+ 5.3	+ 102.5
Rolling Mills ..	23,923	— 1.1	+ 31.5	148,120	— 1.1	+ 53.8
Forging and Pressing ..	2,956	+ 9.9	+ 19.3	14,841	+ 8.7	+ 27.9
Founding ..	7,965	+ 2.0	+ 42.7	44,148	+ 2.6	+ 58.7
Other Departments ..	6,424	+ 1.1	+ 14.0	35,841	+ 1.7	+ 19.8
Mechanics, Labourers..	19,655	+ 3.7	+ 27.3	112,978	+ 3.8	+ 38.0
Total ..	79,936	+ 0.9	+ 28.7	432,241	+ 1.1	+ 44.1
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland and Durham ..	6,203	— 5.7	+ 49.4	32,420	— 8.6	+ 61.7
Cleveland ..	8,476	— 0.1	+ 23.3	48,330	— 0.7	+ 28.8
Sheffield and Rotherham ..	19,763	+ 5.2	+ 45.0	104,675	+ 5.7	+ 67.5
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ..	2,489	+ 2.6	+ 2.0	13,710	+ 2.8	+ 11.9
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ..	7,820	— 10.0	+ 16.4	41,474	— 8.7	+ 40.8
Staffordshire ..	8,468	+ 0.6	+ 22.0	46,136	+ 2.2	+ 35.1
Other Midland Counties ..	4,023	+ 1.0	+ 28.7	21,055	+ 0.8	+ 45.4
Wales and Monmouth..	7,902	+ 1.7	+ 10.6	44,193	+ 2.1	+ 13.8
Total, England and Wales ..	65,144	+ 0.0	+ 27.7	351,993	+ 0.2	+ 41.2
Scotland ..	14,792	+ 4.7	+ 33.6	80,248	+ 5.0	+ 58.3
Total ..	79,936	+ 0.9	+ 28.7	432,241	+ 1.1	+ 44.1

The production of steel ingots and castings in March, as returned to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 802,500 tons, compared with 707,100 tons in February and 549,400 tons in March, 1922.

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown was actually worked by all the men employed.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was still bad during March, but continued to improve in the majority of districts. In some cases, however, it was reported to have been affected by increased prices of materials. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment insurance books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 17.6 at 26th March, compared with 18.8 at 26th February.

On the North-East Coast employment was again bad, but the improvement noted in February continued. There was a further decline in the textile machinery section at some centres in Lancashire and Cheshire, but general engineering improved a little on the whole. In Yorkshire what little change was apparent was in the direction of improvement; while conditions were somewhat better at Nottingham, and more markedly better at Lincoln. At Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton employment in the motor and cycle industries was fairly good, night shifts being resorted to in some instances. General engineering also improved somewhat at these centres. In the Eastern Counties employment, although generally slack, showed signs of improvement, and conditions were also rather better on the whole in the Southern Counties. In Wales an improvement was reported in general engineering, but a decline in marine engineering.

There was a slight improvement on the whole in the Glasgow district, and employment on the East Coast of Scotland maintained the improvement noted in the previous month. In the Belfast district, also, there was a further reduction in the percentage of unemployment.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople registered as unemployed in the engineering and iron-founding industry according to the Unemployment Insurance records at 26th March, as compared with 26th February:—

Divisions.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th March, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 26th March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in percentage as compared with 26th Feb., 1923.
London ..	19,913	13.8	— 1.2
South-Eastern ..	11,121	14.6	— 0.9
South-Western ..	7,622	12.6	— 1.1
Midlands ..	34,420	15.7	— 0.9
North-Eastern ..	47,533	20.6	— 2.0
North-Western ..	42,467	19.3	+ 0.1
Scotland ..	35,751	20.2	— 2.1
Wales ..	1,382	10.3	— 2.2
Northern Ireland ..	2,807	23.6	— 1.1
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND }	203,016	17.6	— 1.2
<i>Males ..</i>	<i>198,018</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>— 1.2</i>
<i>Females ..</i>	<i>4,998</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>— 0.5</i>

SHIPBUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades remained very bad during March, but again showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople whose unemployment insurance books were lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th March:—

Division.	Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th March, 1923.	Percentage of Unemployment at 26th March, 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in percentages as compared with 26th February, 1923.
London ..	4,367	25.0	— 0.8
South-Eastern ..	1,840	16.6	— 0.6
South-Western ..	6,910	15.6	— 2.5
Midlands ..	173	18.4	— 2.8
North-Eastern ..	32,919	35.4	— 3.5
North-Western ..	14,404	31.3	— 1.7
Scotland ..	33,174	34.9	— 2.8
Wales ..	5,470	31.4	+ 3.3
Northern Ireland ..	8,313	25.0	+ 0.2
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND }	107,570	30.0	— 2.1
<i>Males ..</i>	<i>107,129</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>— 2.1</i>
<i>Females ..</i>	<i>441</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>— 0.5</i>

On the North-East Coast employment was again very bad generally, though it continued to improve at some of the yards. On the East and South Coasts it continued bad. At the Bristol Channel ports there was a further decline on repair work. On the Mersey employment, though still bad, continued to improve, especially with shipwrights on new work. At Barrow it was bad, though slightly better than during February.

In Scotland employment continued very bad generally, though with shipwrights on the Clyde a further improvement was reported. At Belfast employment remained bad.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH, 1923.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1923, amounted to 1,492,138 tons, as compared with 1,468,599 tons at the end of December, 1922, and 2,235,998 tons at the end of March, 1922. The increase, as compared with the previous quarter, in the tonnage under construction is the first recorded since March, 1921. The figures at the end of March, 1923, however, still include a considerable amount of tonnage (181,000) on which work has been suspended for some time; and, when allowance is made for this, the tonnage on which construction was actually going forward in Great Britain and Ireland amounted to 1,311,000 tons, or 579,000 tons less than the average tonnage under construction during the twelve months immediately preceding the war. The tonnage commenced during the quarter again showed a considerable improvement, amounting to 355,203 tons, or an increase of 124,016 tons, as compared with the quarter ended December, 1922.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and merchant vessels under 100 tons gross.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING March employment continued good in the section of the trade spinning Egyptian cotton, the great majority of firms continuing to work full time. On the other hand, it was very bad, and worse than a month earlier, in the section spinning American cotton. In accordance with a resolution of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, recommending members in the American section to curtail production by 50 per cent. in March, a large amount of short time was worked, some firms stopping their mills for two weeks, whilst others stopped a proportionate amount of machinery. At a meeting held on the 16th March, the Federation issued a further recommendation that a similar curtailment of production (*i.e.*, to the extent of 50 per cent.) should continue during April, in addition to any stoppage due to the Easter holidays.

In the manufacturing section employment continued very poor.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the numbers of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.5 on the 26th March, as compared with 10.6 on the 26th February.

The following Table summarises the returns received from those employers who furnished information for the three dates under review:—

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
DEPARTMENTS.						
Preparing.. ..	11,034	- 0.7	- 1.2	17,032	- 7.5	- 20.8
Spinning	21,693	- 0.4	- 1.9	35,379	- 5.2	- 19.2
Weaving	33,068	+ 0.5	+ 5.8	64,857	+ 3.2	- 4.2
Other	8,678	- 0.4	+ 3.0	20,269	- 1.1	- 10.3
Not specified	7,085	- 2.6	+ 5.4	12,672	- 8.1	- 22.6
Total	86,558	- 0.2	+ 2.6	150,209	- 1.7	- 12.7
DISTRICTS.						
Ashton	3,512	+ 0.2	+ 2.7	5,825	- 4.9	- 13.1
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	7,879	- 0.6	+ 5.4	13,036	- 1.7	- 12.8
Oldham	8,869	- 2.2	- 0.3	13,349	- 22.3	- 33.5
Bolton and Leigh	14,497	- 0.8	+ 1.4	25,199	+ 0.1	- 12.8
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	7,422	- 3.7	- 5.4	10,444	- 5.6	- 30.0
Manchester	5,232	- 1.1	- 14.1	8,897	- 0.8	- 23.3
Preston and Chorley.. ..	6,855	- 0.2	+ 5.8	12,087	+ 0.0	+ 4.3
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	9,219	- 3.2	+ 5.7	17,371	+ 0.3	- 6.7
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	12,197	+ 5.7	+ 8.5	26,165	+ 9.2	- 1.0
Other Lancashire Towns	3,932	+ 9.6	+ 21.7	6,287	+ 10.3	+ 10.9
Yorkshire Towns	4,056	- 4.6	+ 0.4	6,968	- 7.0	- 9.3
Other Districts	2,888	+ 1.0	+ 8.2	4,581	+ 1.3	- 5.0
Total	83,558	- 0.2	+ 2.6	150,209	- 1.7	- 12.7

In the Oldham district employment with spinners and weavers continued bad, and was worse than in February, and worse also than a year ago. During March over one-fourth of the operatives covered by the returns in this district were stopped for two weeks, about one-fourth were stopped for one week, and nearly one-fourth were on short time for one or more weeks; the remainder (slightly over one-fourth) worked full time. In many cases the Easter Holiday stoppage was extended. In the Stockport and Ashton districts 53 per cent. and 38 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, to the extent of about 18 and 12 hours per week on the average, respectively.

At Bolton employment remained fair with spinners, only about 6 per cent. of the spindles being stopped, but was very poor with weavers, with whom it showed a marked decline; with

spinners at Leigh it was good. In the Bury and Rochdale district employment was bad; in the week ended 24th March about 79 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, to the extent of about 18 hours per week on the average.

In the Burnley district employment with weavers continued very slack, and the employers were considering the adoption of organised short time. In the Blackburn, Preston and Darwen districts employment was also very slack; in Blackburn many mills were closed, and in Preston about 4,000 workpeople were reported to be working alternate weeks. The holiday stoppage at Preston was prolonged by many firms, generally to the extent of 14 days. Many weaving operatives in the various districts were working less than the usual number of looms. Employment in the spinning departments in Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen was slack, and worse than in February.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 118,854,500 lbs. in March, 1923, compared with 119,888,800 lbs. in the previous month, and with 73,377,400 lbs. in March, 1922.

The exports of cotton yarn were 13,030,200 lbs. in March, 1923, compared with 10,881,600 lbs. in February, 1923, and 18,750,700 lbs. in March, 1922.

The exports of cotton piece goods were 337,411,500 square yards, as compared with 342,558,500 square yards in the previous month, and with 303,857,500 square yards in March, 1922.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

In these trades there was little general change in employment during the month. The wool sorting and combing branches showed a slight decline, except in the mohair and alpaca sorting section, in which there was a slight improvement.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 3.4 on the 26th March, as compared with 3.8 on the 26th February.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

In this trade employment was fair, and showed little change on the whole; in the woollen spinning branch there was a slight improvement with firms spinning for the woollen weaving trade, but a slight falling off with those spinning for the hosiery trade.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district employment was fair, and about the same as a month earlier; some overtime was being worked, as well as a little night work. In the heavy woollen district (Dewsbury and Batley, etc.) it was reported as bad, but it was much better than a year ago. In the Leeds district employment was described as quiet on the whole, and employment generally showed a decline; but there was less unemployment with willeys and fettlers, and a further improvement in the low woollen trade in the Leeds and Morley districts. In the blanket and rug trade a slight decline was reported, though employment was still fairly good; in the rag and shoddy trade employment, though poor, showed a further slight improvement. In the flannel trade employment in the Stockport and Rochdale districts was fair, but showed a falling-off during the month. In Scotland there was considerable short time and unemployment in the tweed trade.

The following Table summarises the information received from those firms which furnished returns for the three dates under review:—

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
<i>Departments.</i>		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	392	- 0.8	+ 9.2	944	- 0.6	+ 8.0
Spinning	3,985	- 0.4	+ 13.3	8,134	- 0.8	+ 12.5
Weaving	6,766	+ 0.2	+ 9.5	12,891	+ 2.1	+ 9.4
Other Departments	5,101	+ 1.1	+ 9.0	11,796	+ 1.3	+ 11.0
Not Specified	824	+ 6.0	+ 2.7	1,938	- 8.2	- 3.8
TOTAL	17,068	- 0.0	+ 9.9	35,703	+ 0.5	+ 9.8
<i>Districts.</i>						
Huddersfield District ..	1,339	+ 0.7	+ 10.0	3,477	+ 0.5	+ 5.2
Leeds District	1,757	- 2.1	+ 17.1	3,691	- 5.1	+ 5.9
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,636	+ 0.9	+ 9.9	3,783	- 1.0	+ 20.5
Other Parts of West Riding	2,011	+ 1.3	+ 9.7	4,698	+ 2.6	+ 16.9
Total, West Riding	6,743	+ 0.2	+ 11.6	15,649	- 0.6	+ 12.2
Scotland	5,326	- 0.9	+ 10.6	10,597	+ 0.1	+ 10.5
Other Districts	4,999	+ 0.6	+ 6.9	9,457	+ 2.8	+ 5.3
TOTAL	17,068	- 0.0	+ 9.9	35,703	+ 0.5	+ 9.8

In the week ended 24th March about 18 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received from employers were working short time, to the extent of about eight hours a week on the average.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

WORSTED TRADE.

In the Bradford district employment during March was fair with wool combers and wool sorters, but not so good as a month earlier, some short time being reported. In the other departments there was little change on the whole; it was good in the spinning department and fair with weavers. Employment in the Bradford and Keighley coating trades and in the stuff in the Bradford and Keighley and Silsden showed a decline. In the Halifax and Huddersfield districts employment was not quite so good as during the previous month, the decline being chiefly in the fine men's wear trade; short time was still being worked by many firms in the weaving department.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under review :—

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting and Combing	4,102	+ 0.5	+ 6.6	11,016	- 2.3	- 4.6
Spinning	15,453	- 0.5	+ 6.3	24,844	- 0.4	- 5.4
Weaving	5,371	+ 0.2	+ 6.5	11,222	- 0.9	+ 1.3
Other Departments ..	2,904	+ 0.1	+ 8.5	7,592	+ 3.8	+ 2.4
Not specified ..	2,286	- 0.9	+ 2.7	4,542	- 1.1	- 0.3
TOTAL	30,116	- 0.2	+ 6.3	59,216	- 0.4	- 2.7
Districts.						
Bradford District ..	15,288	- 0.2	+ 8.0	31,376	- 0.3	- 1.6
Keighley District ..	5,098	+ 0.0	+ 0.5	9,681	- 0.8	- 8.0
Halifax District ..	2,767	- 0.2	+ 0.1	4,863	- 1.8	- 9.3
Huddersfield District ..	3,315	- 0.4	+ 17.0	6,834	- 1.3	+ 11.3
Other Parts of West Riding	2,176	- 0.6	+ 3.9	3,907	+ 3.2	- 6.2
Total, West Riding ..	28,644	- 0.2	+ 6.4	56,661	- 0.4	- 2.4
Other Districts ..	1,472	- 0.3	+ 4.2	2,555	- 0.9	- 7.3
TOTAL	30,116	- 0.2	+ 6.3	59,216	- 0.4	- 2.7

Returns received from firms employing 27,301 workpeople showed that about 6 per cent. of these workpeople were working short time in the week ended 24th March, to the extent of about nine hours a week on the average.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep or lambs) were 44,557,600 lbs. in March, 1923, compared with 45,629,700 lbs. in February, 1923, and 88,315,600 lbs. in March, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,157,000 lbs., compared with 3,098,400 lbs. in February, 1923, and 4,048,100 lbs. in March, 1922.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 14,381,500 square yards, compared with 17,559,700 in February, 1923, and 14,930,300 square yards in March, 1922.

The exports of blankets were 98,466 pairs, and 112,597 pairs and 58,417 pairs in March, 1923, February, 1923, and March, 1922, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

DURING March employment continued slack, with much short time, especially in the heavy boot trade. It was somewhat better than in February, however, in nearly all the principal districts, and better, on the whole, than in March of last year, though in this respect there was much variation as between one district and another.

At Leicester and in the surrounding district employment continued fair, and showed a further improvement during the month. At Northampton employment was very slack, about two-thirds of the operatives being on short time, to the extent of ten hours a week on the average; it was also slack at Kettering. At both these centres, however, employment was somewhat better than in February. At Stafford the operatives continued to be well employed. Employment was slack in the Bristol and Kingswood district and in the Leeds district. In the Rossendale Valley it was fair, and showed a further improvement. In Scotland it was bad at all the principal centres, except at Kilmarnock, where it was fair.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the boot, shoe and slipper making and repairing trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges was 8.6 on the 26th March, as compared with 8.2 on the 26th February.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under review :—

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
England and Wales :—						
London	2,143	+ 1.8	+ 2.9	5,075	+ 3.7	- 1.4
Leicester	8,972	+ 2.6	+ 6.7	24,150	+ 3.3	+ 9.1
Leicester Country District	2,318	- 0.3	- 5.6	5,225	+ 3.5	- 9.0
Northampton	6,620	+ 1.3	- 2.7	16,000	+ 5.0	- 5.3
Northampton Country District	7,638	+ 0.4	+ 3.5	17,280	+ 2.6	+ 5.1
Kettering	3,157	+ 0.9	+ 2.1	8,226	+ 4.2	+ 7.5
Stafford and District ..	2,219	- 0.5	+ 4.6	5,590	+ 1.7	+ 10.3
Norwich and District ..	3,804	- 2.9	+ 3.4	7,483	- 2.0	- 11.2
Bristol, Kingswood and District	2,359	+ 9.6	+ 17.1	4,413	+ 1.6	+ 19.3
Leeds and District ..	1,997	- 0.5	+ 14.2	4,095	- 0.4	+ 19.3
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ..	3,930	+ 1.5	+ 17.9	9,186	+ 4.6	+ 18.7
Birmingham and District	918	- 0.6	+ 2.5	1,584	+ 1.3	- 11.9
Other parts of England and Wales	1,377	+ 1.3	+ 11.5	2,600	- 0.5	+ 14.2
England and Wales	47,512	+ 1.2	+ 4.9	110,907	+ 2.8	+ 4.2
Scotland	2,410	- 0.7	- 6.5	5,058	+ 2.2	+ 2.6
Great Britain	49,922	+ 1.1	+ 4.2	115,965	+ 2.8	+ 4.1

Returns received from firms employing 34,488 workpeople showed about 27 per cent. on short time in the week ending 24th March, to the extent of nearly 13 hours a week on the average.

The exports of boots and shoes in March, 1923, amounted to 79,027 dozen pairs, or 8,178 dozen pairs more than in February, 1923, and 13,625 dozen pairs more than in March, 1922.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

DURING March employment in these trades, taken as a whole, showed a further slight improvement; it continued generally slack, however, although there was considerable variation as between different centres and the various occupations within each centre. Short time working was reported from several districts. The percentage unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books remaining lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.7 for the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 26th March, as compared with 18.8 a month earlier, and a decrease in the percentage was also recorded in each of the geographical divisions shown in the Table given below.

Employment again showed a marked seasonal improvement with painters, and a slight improvement with each of the other occupations mentioned in the Table; it was generally bad with builders' labourers and workpeople on construction of works, and slack with all other classes.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople claiming unemployment benefit at 26th March, and the decreases in the percentages as compared with 26th February :—

Occupation.	Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 26th Mar., 1923	Percentage of Unemployment at 26th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage as compared with 26th Feb., 1923.
Building Trade.			
Carpenters	12,357	9.1	- 1.6
Bricklayers	5,551	9.0	- 3.1
Masons	1,883	7.9	- 1.6
Slaters	742	13.2	- 1.4
Plasterers	2,524	14.6	- 1.0
Painters	16,837	14.6	- 9.7
Plumbers	4,428	11.8	- 1.2
Labourers of above ..	55,514	20.3	- 2.6
All other occupations ..	16,603	16.7	- 2.1
Total	116,439	15.1	- 3.3
Construction of Works.			
Navvies	8,008	22.7	- 1.9
All other occupations ..	13,677	17.7	- 1.7
Total	21,685	19.3	- 1.8
Grand Total	138,124	15.7	- 3.1
Divisions.			
London	31,252	16.3	- 4.1
South-Eastern	14,010	11.1	- 1.8
South Western	12,955	12.0	- 2.4
Midlands	17,639	18.1	- 3.1
North-Eastern	19,453	17.6	- 3.4
North-Western	20,600	17.8	- 3.4
Scotland	13,702	15.9	- 2.8
Wales	6,107	16.2	- 2.4
Northern Ireland	3,406	25.9	- 5.3
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	138,124	15.7	- 3.1
Males	187,836	15.8	- 3.1
Females	288	4.4	- 0.6

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade during March continued moderate on the whole and showed some improvement as compared with the previous month. It was generally fair in the Peterborough and South Staffordshire districts, but was still bad in the Nottingham and Birmingham districts.

The percentage of people unemployed in the brick, tile, &c., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th March was 12.4, as compared with 14.1 at 26th February.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under comparison :—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.*
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,563	Per cent. + 0.6	3,718	Per cent. + 8.8	Per cent. - 11.7
Midlands and Eastern Counties	3,503	+ 2.0	8,009	+ 11.1	- 2.2
South and South-West Counties and Wales	983	- 0.3	2,325	+ 2.6	- 8.6
Other Districts ..	91	+ 1.1	226	+ 4.1	- 17.5
TOTAL ..	6,140	+ 1.3	14,278	+ 8.9	- 6.2

Returns from firms employing 4,838 workpeople showed that 18 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, to the extent of 7 hours on the average, during the week ended 24th March.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades during March continued bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.1 at 26th March, 1923, as compared with 12.8 at 26th February, 1923.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three dates under comparison :—

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 24th Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.*
China Manufacture	1,415	- 0.6	2,612	+ 0.0	- 19.5
Earthenware Manufacture	8,840	+ 1.1	16,940	+ 3.5	+ 3.6
Other Branches (including unspecified) ..	1,722	+ 4.8	3,286	+ 7.2	+ 18.7
TOTAL ..	11,977	+ 1.4	22,838	+ 3.6	+ 2.1
DISTRICTS.					
Potteries ..	9,283	+ 1.5	17,213	+ 4.0	+ 3.0
Other Districts ..	2,694	+ 1.1	5,625	+ 2.6	- 0.4
TOTAL ..	11,977	+ 1.4	22,838	+ 3.6	+ 2.1

Returns from employers relating to short-time working showed that, of 10,195 workpeople covered, 36 per cent. were working, on an average, about 19 hours less than full-time in the week ended 24th March.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT with seamen during March was slack on the whole. At most of the ports large numbers of men failed to obtain berths.

The percentage of seamen unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 20.4 at 26th March, as compared with 22.2 at 26th February.

Employment on the Thames declined in the first half of March and improved afterwards, being reported as moderate at the end of the month. On the Tyne the demand for men declined and was described as quiet at the end of March. It was poor on the Wear and on the Tees. A fairly good demand at Hull declined during the last week of the month. The demand at Southampton was quiet in the first half of March and improved subsequently. It was poor at Bristol and Avonmouth. At Cardiff it was fair during the greater part of the month, declining in the last week. It was fair at Swansea and good at Newport. In the foreign-going trade on the Mersey the demand declined in the first half of the month, then improved a little, and declined again in the last week, when it was reported as moderate.

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

Employment on the Clyde was moderate on the whole, and at Leith it was fair during the greater part of March, declining subsequently. At Belfast the demand was fairly brisk in the middle of the month and very dull at the beginning and the end. The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the principal ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during March :—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	Mar., 1923.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Three months ended.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1923.	Mar., 1922.
ENGLAND & WALES :					
<i>East Coast—</i>					
Tyne Ports.. ..	1,349	— 181	— 481	4,454	4,924
Sunderland	101	— 83	— 51	583	589
Middlesbrough	305	— 80	— 1	1,231	909
Hull	1,363	+ 127	— 587	4,324	3,888
Grimsby	4	+ 4	+ 2	25	27
<i>Bristol Channel—</i>					
Bristol†	879	+ 100	— 199	2,590	2,813
Newport, Mon.	969	+ 15	— 39	3,290	3,490
Cardiff‡	2,337	— 814	— 328	8,615	8,874
Swansea	647	+ 245	+ 127	2,063	1,713
<i>Other Ports—</i>					
Liverpool	11,021	+ 2,277	+ 395	32,899	28,694
London	6,938	+ 294	— 758	21,858	22,283
Southampton	7,436	+ 3,138	+ 706	20,368	18,187
SCOTLAND :					
Leith	494	+ 296	+ 47	1,267	941
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	240	— 13	+ 31	921	557
Glasgow	2,948	+ 1,206	+ 756	6,202	5,370
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast	245	+ 139	— 24	575	902
TOTAL	37,276	+ 6,670	— 404	111,265	104,161

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during March continued slack, but was slightly better than in the previous month. The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the canal, river, harbour, dock and wharf service, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 26th March, 1923, was 19.4, as compared with 19.9 at 26th February.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks, and at the principal wharves, in each week of the month :—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
3rd March, 1923 ..	5,075	2,664	7,739	7,807	15,546
10th " ..	4,802	2,921	7,723	8,107	15,830
17th " ..	4,794	2,767	7,561	8,096	15,657
24th " ..	4,710	3,360	8,070	8,327	16,397
31st " ..	4,577	2,772	7,349	8,383	15,732
Average for 5 weeks ended 31st March, 1923 ..	4,807	2,905	7,712	8,127	15,839
Average for Feb., 1923 ..	4,851	2,569	7,420	7,923	15,343
Average for Mar., 1922 ..	5,389	2,727	8,116	8,474	16,590

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in March was 870, as compared with 827 in the previous month, and with 1,208 in March, 1922.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers and teemers on the Tyne, Blyth and Wear continued good; with other classes of workers it was, on the average, better than in the previous month. At Middlesbrough the improvement reported last month continued. Employment was a little better at Hull, and about the same as in February at other East Coast ports.

Southern and Western Ports.—Employment was slack at Southampton, and also at Plymouth and other South-Western ports. At the South Wales ports it was fair, with an improvement on coal shipments. At Liverpool the average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the Clearing Houses, under the Liverpool Docks Scheme, as employed in the four weeks ended 26th March, being 15,289, compared with 15,321 in the four weeks ended 26th February and 14,578 in the corresponding period of last year.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was fair, and better than in February, but at Dundee it was slack and worse than in the previous month. At Belfast it was moderate.

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

The number of persons remaining on the "live registers" of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—i.e., of applications for employment outstanding from work—people—at 26th March, 1923, was 1,288,938, of whom 999,500 were men, 40,617 boys, 213,453 women, and 35,368 girls. Compared with 26th February, there was a decrease of 87,471, which was distributed as follows: Men, 73,177; women, 4,978; juveniles, 9,316.

During the four weeks ended 26th March the number of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges was 79,043, of which 50,816 were for men, 16,625 for women, and 11,602 for juveniles. Compared with the four weeks ended 26th February, there was an increase of 6,201 in the total number of vacancies filled.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the four weeks ended 26th March, 1923:—

Week ended	Applications by Employers.	Vacancies Filled.	Applications outstanding at end of week.	
			From Workpeople (Live Register.)	From Employers.
26th February, 1923	21,572	18,806	1,376,409	16,166
5th March, 1923	21,207	18,328	1,366,724	15,948
12th " "	22,967	19,010	1,349,834	16,961
19th " "	24,733	20,528	1,306,814	18,209
26th " "	24,928	21,177	1,288,938	18,648
Total (4 weeks)	93,835	79,043	—	—

A detailed analysis of the figures in the preceding paragraphs is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 5th March are dealt with below:—

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of applications (525,944) from workpeople during the four weeks ended 5th March showed a daily average of 21,914—a decrease of 1,128, or 4.9 per cent., compared with the daily average of the previous month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 14,542, women for 5,266, and juveniles for 2,106—decreases of 1.8 per cent., 4.4 per cent., and 1.9 per cent. respectively in the case of men, women and juveniles.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 5th March there were 84,410 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,517, as compared with 3,146 during the preceding period. Of this daily average, 2,015 were for men, 960 for women, and 542 for juveniles. Compared with the previous month the number of vacancies notified for men, women, and juveniles increased by 17.3 per cent., 2.8 per cent., and 9.7 per cent. respectively.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 71,026—a daily average of 2,959, as compared with 2,626 during the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,834, women for 664, and juveniles for 461. The corresponding figures for the previous month were: Men, 1,538; women, 649; and juveniles, 439.

Juveniles.—During the period, 24,114 applications were received from boys, and 26,432 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 6,257, and 5,374 vacancies were filled. In the case of girls, 6,747 vacancies were notified, and 5,705 were filled. Of the total vacancies filled by juveniles, 20.5 per cent. were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school.

Statistics relating to *Building Trades* (men) and to *Domestic Service* occupations (women) for the four weeks ended 5th March have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below:—

In the building trades 8,743 vacancies were notified for men and 7,704 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were: Carpenters, 1,960 vacancies notified and 1,695 filled; bricklayers, 1,392 vacancies notified and 1,105 filled; painters, 2,086 vacancies notified and 2,017 filled; and builders' labourers, 1,498 vacancies and 1,401 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 125,632† at 5th March, compared with 140,602† at 5th February.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 5th March was 13,104. Of this number, 5,727 were for resident domestic servants, 2,608 for non-resident domestic servants, 3,546 for charwomen, and 569 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 654.

Of the 8,402 vacancies filled, 2,403 were placings in resident domestic service, 1,854 as non-resident, 3,236 as charwomen, and 425 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 5th March for work in domestic services was 34,627, compared with 34,302 on 5th February.

The figures above, except those in the first three paragraphs, are exclusive of dock labourers and coal porters. The number of casual jobs found for men in these occupations during the period of four weeks ended 5th March was 1,401.

* The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The figures for Great Britain alone, as already published in the Press, show that on 26th March, 1923, there were on the Live Registers 970,000 men, 198,000 women, and 75,000 juveniles, compared with 1,165,000 men, 235,000 women, and 85,800 juveniles at 1st January, 1923.

† Workmen on short time are not included.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas and for the principal towns therein the number of persons remaining on the "live registers" at the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at 26th March, 1923. In certain cases, e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc., the figures cover more than one Exchange Area:—

Area.	Number of Persons remaining on the Live Registers at 26th March, 1923.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 26th Feb., 1923.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	
London	157,166	34,319	13,292	204,777	− 18,636
South Eastern Division..	62,052	8,312	5,830	76,194	− 7,617
Brighton	2,948	685	530	4,163	− 456
Chatham	3,226	372	594	4,192	+ 62
Ipwich	3,712	339	268	4,419	+ 17
Norwich	4,108	361	140	4,609	+ 61
Rest of South Eastern	48,058	6,555	4,198	58,811	− 7,267
South Western Division..	68,315	9,571	6,510	84,396	− 7,703
Bristol	12,863	2,625	1,405	16,893	− 1,285
Plymouth	5,888	934	566	7,388	− 169
Portsmouth	5,935	592	791	7,318	− 390
Reading	1,871	180	323	2,374	− 154
Southampton	6,233	645	540	7,418	− 1,089
Swindon	1,160	162	247	1,569	− 202
Rest of South Western	34,365	4,433	2,638	41,436	− 4,420
Midlands Division	124,793	30,865	8,158	163,816	− 17,767
Birmingham	32,247	9,573	1,273	43,093	− 5,105
Coventry	3,398	477	82	3,957	− 482
Cradley Heath	3,747	826	131	4,704	− 312
Derby	3,078	346	262	3,686	− 372
Leicester	2,108	355	36	2,499	− 260
Northampton	1,695	370	68	2,133	− 335
Nottingham	6,567	1,237	371	8,175	− 879
Smethwick	4,501	1,315	411	6,227	− 347
Stoke-on-Trent	6,495	3,648	475	10,618	− 1,652
Walsall	4,406	875	1,107	6,388	− 550
West Bromwich	2,804	602	202	3,608	− 27
Wolverhampton	6,345	1,980	365	8,690	− 714
Rest of Midlands	47,402	9,261	3,315	60,038	− 6,732
North-Eastern Division..	182,717	16,402	10,521	209,640	− 23,708
Barnsley	1,712	120	91	1,923	− 1,087
Bradford	4,200	528	70	4,798	− 766
Darlington	1,966	173	101	2,240	− 403
Dewsbury	1,190	321	68	1,579	− 113
Doncaster	350	150	114	614	− 76
Gateshead	6,153	567	509	7,229	− 423
Grimsby	2,108	169	172	2,449	− 607
Halifax	1,592	249	13	1,854	− 39
Hartlepool	6,630	269	336	7,235	− 515
Huddersfield	2,186	201	118	2,505	− 359
Hull	9,243	591	897	10,731	− 1,294
Leeds	14,159	1,612	505	16,276	− 1,963
Lincoln	3,356	418	113	3,887	− 462
Middlesbrough	7,432	312	230	7,974	− 972
Newcastle-on-Tyne	17,515	1,243	1,142	19,900	− 849
Rotherham	1,271	160	227	1,658	− 429
Sheffield	23,819	2,625	1,407	27,851	− 2,237
South Shields	5,615	343	273	6,231	− 82
Stockton-on-Tees	6,351	177	253	6,791	− 778
Sunderland	13,852	845	789	15,496	− 1,602
York	1,711	338	692	2,741	− 122
Rest of North-Eastern	50,296	4,991	2,391	57,678	− 8,533
North Western Division	191,722	71,383	18,261	281,366	+ 10,084
Accrington	2,758	1,021	247	4,026	+ 1,020
Ashton-under-Lyne	4,093	2,128	449	6,670	+ 1,372
Barrow	7,983	446	658	9,087	− 351
Birkenhead	5,713	495	952	7,160	− 1,340
Blackburn	4,429	3,084	424	7,937	+ 991
Blackpool	1,012	676	45	1,733	− 370
Bolton	5,108	1,239	236	6,583	+ 79
Burnley	3,489	3,063	452	7,004	− 1,859
Bury	2,019	1,454	129	3,602	+ 48
Chorley	961	282	63	1,306	− 233
Liverpool	41,658	7,055	3,921	52,634	− 376
Manchester	25,937	5,923	1,609	33,469	− 1,641
Nelson	788	529	41	1,358	− 647
Oldham	11,782	8,327	1,393	21,502	+ 10,873
Preston	4,957	3,630	676	9,263	+ 29
Rochdale	4,250	4,000	606	8,856	+ 3,942
St. Helens	2,860	327	377	3,564	− 251
Salford	8,681	2,889	1,096	12,666	− 853
Stockport	3,338	2,681	315	6,334	+ 521
Warrington	2,135	275	116	2,526	− 144
Wigan	2,373	3,371	664	6,408	− 610
Rest of North Western	45,398	18,488	3,792	67,678	− 116
Scotland Division	144,330	24,804	9,867	179,001	− 13,943
Aberdeen	6,473	849	429	7,751	+ 47
Clydebank	4,291	234	235	4,760	− 103
Dundee	7,064	2,523	376	9,963	− 427
Edinburgh	10,887	1,835	987	13,709	+ 19
Glasgow	64,291	10,721	4,498	79,510	− 3,851
Greenock	7,645	929	384	8,958	− 532
Motherwell	1,536	241	135	1,912	− 647
Paisley	5,930	654	301	6,885	− 601
Rest of Scotland	36,213	6,818	2,522	45,553	− 7,747
Wales Division	38,990	2,782	2,462	44,234	− 5,335
Cardiff	6,810	683	643	8,136	+ 286
Llanelli	5-2	101	60	753	− 191
Newport	2,579	190	149	2,918	− 68
Swansea	3,034	227	190	3,451	− 205
Rest of Wales	25,975	1,581	1,420	28,976	− 5,157
Northern Ireland	29,415	15,015	1,084	45,514	− 2,841
Belfast	17,398	10,114	723	28,235	− 926
Londonderry	2,147	539	53	2,739	− 323
Lurgan	872	865	43	1,780	− 346
Lisburn	698	380	15	1,093	− 79
Newry	780	245	9	1,034	+ 31
Rest of Northern Ireland	7,520	2,872	241	10,633	− 1,198
Total Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland ..	999,500	218,453	75,985	1,288,938	− 87,471

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

UNDER the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, substantially all persons for whom Health Insurance contributions have been paid, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Employees of local authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme, may, in certain circumstances, be excepted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under 16 years of age. An applicant for unemployment benefit must, *inter alia*, prove continuous unemployment, and it is provided that two periods of unemployment of not less than two days each, separated by a period of not

more than two days, during which the insured contributor has not been employed for more than 24 hours, or two periods of unemployment of not less than six days each, separated by an interval of not more than six weeks, shall be treated as continuous unemployment for this purpose. Persons employed in establishments where, owing to trade depression, the number of working days has been reduced on a systematic basis in such a manner as to fall within the above provision are accordingly eligible for benefit. Payment of unemployment benefit is subject to certain statutory conditions and disqualifications. The procedure requires the "lodging" of an unemployed person's unemployment book, and the record of books "lodged" thus affords a measure of the extent to which unemployment is prevalent in the insured industries.

Industry.	Estimated number of Insured Workpeople.			TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.*								
				Number of Unemployment Books remaining lodged at 26th Mar., 1923.			Percentage Unemployed.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 26th Feb., 1923.		
	Males.	Fe. males.	Total.	Males.	Fe. males.	Total.	Males.	Fe. males.	Total.	Males.	Fe. males.	Total.
Building and Construction of Works:—												
Building	763,000	5,790	768,790	116,178	261	116,439	15.2	4.5	15.1	- 3.3	- 0.7	- 3.3
Construction of Works other than Building.	111,590	830	112,420	21,658	27	21,685	19.4	3.3	19.3	- 1.8	- 0.3	- 1.8
Shipbuilding	353,020	5,620	358,640	107,129	441	107,570	30.3	7.8	30.0	- 2.1	- 0.5	- 2.1
Engineering and Ironfounding	1,077,840	74,890	1,152,730	198,018	4,998	203,016	18.4	6.7	17.6	- 1.2	- 0.5	- 1.2
Construction and Repair of Vehicles	186,380	30,410	216,790	19,620	2,414	22,034	10.5	8.0	10.2	- 1.5	- 0.4	- 1.3
Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork	182,410	39,270	221,680	19,756	2,750	22,506	10.8	7.0	10.2	- 1.2	- 0.4	- 1.0
Ammunition, Explosives, Chemicals, etc.	175,500	65,410	240,910	19,623	4,490	24,113	11.2	6.9	10.0	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.7
Metal Trades:—												
Iron, Steel, Tinplate, and Galvanized Sheet Manufacture.	293,880	14,270	308,150	46,147	1,080	47,227	15.7	7.6	15.3	- 1.9	- 0.2	- 1.8
Brass, Copper, Zinc, etc., Manufacture	51,770	13,230	65,000	8,190	1,388	9,578	15.8	10.5	14.7	- 1.8	- 0.7	- 1.6
Electrical and Surgical Instruments, etc.	66,560	38,260	104,820	7,132	2,646	9,778	10.7	6.9	9.3	- 1.4	- 0.1	- 1.0
Hand Tools, Cutlery, etc.	20,640	8,360	29,000	3,641	1,091	4,732	17.6	13.1	16.3	- 1.3	- 1.6	- 1.4
Needles, Pins, Steel Pens, Dies, Seals, etc.	5,440	9,750	15,190	578	965	1,543	10.6	9.9	10.2	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 0.5
Wire and Wire Goods	21,650	6,230	27,880	2,108	495	2,603	9.7	7.9	9.3	- 2.5	- 1.1	- 2.2
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Chains, Anchors, etc.	20,060	15,320	35,380	4,214	2,281	6,495	21.0	14.9	18.4	- 1.3	- 1.4	- 1.3
Hardware and Hollow-ware	58,100	49,230	107,330	7,203	6,310	13,513	12.4	12.8	12.6	- 0.8	- 1.6	- 1.1
Watches, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	30,630	20,570	51,200	4,275	1,814	6,089	14.0	8.8	11.9	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 0.5
Miscellaneous Metal Goods (including Musical Instruments).	36,100	16,620	52,720	3,415	1,598	5,013	9.5	9.6	9.5	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.4
Rubber and Leather Trades:—												
Rubber & Rubber & Waterproof Goods	34,890	30,120	65,010	4,761	2,510	7,271	13.6	8.3	11.2	- 0.9	- 0.7	- 0.7
Leather and Leather Goods	48,040	21,250	69,290	5,167	2,043	7,210	10.8	9.6	10.4	- 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.8
Brick, Tile, etc.	68,470	8,910	77,380	8,449	1,161	9,610	12.3	13.0	12.4	- 1.8	- 1.1	- 1.7
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	36,930	34,650	71,580	3,713	4,264	7,977	10.1	12.3	11.1	- 1.2	- 2.1	- 1.7
Glass Trades (excluding Optical, Scientific, etc.).	37,900	7,730	45,630	7,567	671	8,238	20.0	8.7	18.1	- 1.0	- 0.6	- 0.9
Hotel, College, Club, etc., Services	86,470	190,560	277,030	11,969	15,394	27,363	13.8	8.1	9.9	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.5
Laundry Service	15,980	87,730	103,710	1,304	4,249	5,553	8.2	4.8	5.3	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.4
Commercial, Clerical, Insurance and Banking.	120,610	81,640	202,250	8,675	2,545	11,220	7.2	3.1	5.5	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.3
Transport Services:—												
Railway Service	241,530	12,670	254,200	16,909	601	17,510	7.0	4.7	6.9	- 0.8	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Tramway and Omnibus Service	93,900	5,190	104,090	3,900	155	4,055	3.9	3.0	3.9	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3
Other Road Transport	158,410	4,080	162,490	26,898	111	27,009	17.0	2.7	16.6	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.8
Seamen	110,810	1,490	112,300	2,787	113	2,900	20.6	7.6	20.4	- 1.8	- 2.4	- 1.8
Canal River, Harbour, etc., Service	190,040	2,940	192,980	37,124	359	37,483	19.5	12.2	19.4	- 0.5	- 0.8	- 0.5
Warehousemen, Packers, Porters, etc.	32,780	5,560	38,340	6,409	538	6,947	19.6	9.7	18.1	- 1.8	- 1.4	- 1.8
Mining Industry:—												
Coal Mining	1,214,990	9,670	1,224,660	43,308	437	43,745	3.6	4.5	3.6	- 0.5	-	- 0.5
Iron Mining and Ironstone Quarrying	22,920	60	22,980	3,713	—	3,713	16.2	—	16.2	- 3.8	- 11.7	- 3.8
Other Mining	9,810	230	10,040	2,240	14	2,254	22.8	6.1	22.5	- 2.0	- 0.9	- 1.9
Quarrying (other than Ironstone), Clay, Sand, etc., Digging.	59,330	770	60,100	3,800	54	3,854	6.4	7.0	6.4	- 1.1	- 0.5	- 1.1
Printing and Paper Trades:—												
Paper Making and Staining	43,340	17,660	61,000	3,273	1,073	4,346	7.6	6.1	7.1	- 0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Manufactured Stationery	22,220	47,980	70,200	1,577	3,023	4,600	7.1	6.3	6.6	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.2
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	131,330	81,820	213,150	8,661	3,897	12,558	6.6	4.8	5.9	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.7
Textile Trades:—												
Cotton Trade	220,320	381,150	601,470	32,267	54,984	87,251	14.6	14.4	14.5	+ 4.5	+ 3.6	+ 3.9
Woolen and Worsted Trades	111,820	156,570	268,390	5,918	3,195	9,113	5.3	2.0	3.4	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.4
Silk Trade	11,460	22,050	33,510	762	1,029	1,791	6.6	4.7	5.3	- 1.0	- 0.5	- 0.7
Flax, Linen and Hemp Trades	28,270	62,480	90,750	4,567	12,013	16,580	16.2	19.2	18.3	- 0.6	- 0.7	- 0.6
Jute Trade	11,930	30,180	42,110	1,686	3,480	5,166	14.1	11.5	12.3	- 0.3	-	-
Rope, Twine, Cord and Net Manufacture.	7,250	14,870	22,120	920	1,727	2,647	12.7	11.6	12.0	- 0.4	+ 1.5	+ 0.9
Hosiery Trade	19,080	65,560	84,640	793	1,883	2,681	4.2	2.9	3.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.5
Lace Trade	10,860	16,960	27,820	1,881	1,108	2,989	17.3	6.5	10.7	- 4.3	- 0.5	- 2.0
Carpet and Rug Manufacture	9,990	14,050	24,040	393	378	771	3.9	2.7	3.2	- 0.1	- 0.5	- 0.3
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing, etc.	78,600	26,620	105,220	5,519	1,638	7,157	7.0	6.2	6.8	- 1.0	-	- 0.7
Other Textiles	13,200	31,340	44,540	1,144	2,697	3,841	8.7	8.6	8.6	- 0.5	+ 0.2	-
Clothing Trades:—												
Tailoring Trades	65,810	132,680	198,490	5,961	6,732	12,693	9.1	5.1	6.4	- 2.7	- 3.1	- 3.0
Dress etc., Making, Millinery, Furriers, etc.	22,460	214,750	237,210	1,787	11,565	13,352	8.0	5.4	5.6	- 0.6	- 1.8	- 1.7
Hats, Caps and Bonnets	13,190	20,880	34,070	1,290	1,057	2,347	9.8	5.1	6.9	- 1.0	- 0.6	- 0.8
Corset Trade	2,160	12,180	14,340	113	629	742	5.2	5.2	5.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1	-
Boot, Shoe, etc., Trades	97,300	53,080	150,380	10,655	2,324	12,979	11.0	4.4	8.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.4
Other Clothing	18,790	23,000	41,790	1,987	1,224	3,211	10.6	5.3	7.7	- 0.6	- 0.8	- 0.7
Food, Drink and Tobacco:—												
Manufacture of Food and Drink	270,310	174,790	445,100	25,862	20,123	45,985	9.6	11.5	10.3	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.3
Tobacco, Cigar and Cigarette Manufacture	13,990	32,970	46,960	1,301	3,363	4,664	9.3	10.2	9.9	+ 0.5	+ 1.7	+ 1.3
Miscellaneous Trades and Services:—												
Public Utility Services	216,270	12,580	228,850	16,697	488	17,185	7.7	3.9	7.5	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.3
Oilcloth, Linoleum and Cork Carpets	9,800	3,370	13,170	558	117	675	5.7	3.5	5.1	- 0.4	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Distributive Trades	573,720	437,800	1,011,520	45,180	23,024	68,204	7.9	5.3	6.7	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3
National and Local Government Service.	250,240	73,780	324,020	26,742	3,461	30,203	10.7	4.7	9.3	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 0.4
Professional Services	63,160	69,550	132,710	3,737	1,705	5,442	5.9	2.5	4.1	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Other Industries and Services	160,790	59,410	220,200	40,578	5,869	46,447	25.2	9.9	21.1	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.5
TOTAL	8,541,030	3,209,420	11,750,450	1,059,387	244,089	1,303,476	12.4	7.6	11.1	- 1.0	- 0.1	- 0.7

* In addition to the figures given for total unemployment there were 60,565 persons, or 0.5 per cent., working systematic short time in such a manner as to entitle them to Unemployment Insurance benefit.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 52, as compared with 41 in the previous month and 46 in March, 1922. In these new disputes 47,000 workpeople were directly involved and 1,000 indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition 38,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 28 disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 80, involving 86,000 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during March of 834,000 working days.

The largest dispute in progress was that which began in the Dundee jute industry on 23rd February and culminated on 23rd March in a general lockout, involving 29,000 workpeople (*see* page 123). Other large disputes affected about 10,000 building operatives in the Eastern Counties, 15,000 coal miners in Glamorganshire, and about 8,000 farm workers in Norfolk.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved (whether directly or indirectly) at the establishments concerned, and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Groups of Industries.	Number of Disputes in progress in March.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Mar.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Mar.
	Started before 1st Mar.	Started in Mar.	Total.		
Building ..	1	8	9	13,000	173,000
Mining & Quarrying ..	4	10	14	24,000	150,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	7	13	20	2,000	16,000
Textile Trades ..	3	3	6	32,000	313,000
Agriculture and Fishing ..	2	1	3	11,000	138,000
Printing, Paper, etc., Trades ..	2	2	4	1,000	26,000
Other Trades ..	9	15	24	3,000	18,000
Total, Mar., 1923 ..	28	52	80	86,000	834,000
<i>Total, Feb., 1923 ..</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>337,000</i>
<i>Total, Mar., 1922 ..</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>246,000†</i>	<i>2,980,000†</i>

Causes.—Of the 52 disputes beginning in March, 17, directly involving 22,000 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 10, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, on other wages questions; 11, directly involving 20,000 workpeople, on questions of unionism and non-unionism; and 14, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected during March in the case of 30 new disputes, directly involving 25,000 workpeople, and 8 old disputes, directly involving 1,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 18, directly involving 20,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 5, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 15, directly involving 5,000 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 3 disputes, directly involving 160 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1922 AND 1923.†

The following Table gives comparative statistics of disputes occurring in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the first three months of 1922 and 1923:—

Groups of Industries.	January to March, 1922.			January to March, 1923.		
	Number of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	Number of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building ..	23	3,000	51,000	14	13,000	175,000
Mining and Quarrying ..	37	25,000	353,000	50	52,000	400,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	19	213,000†	2,470,000†	19	3,000	25,000
Other Metal ..	14	12,000	273,000	13	1,000	15,000
Textile ..	2	2,000	43,000	10	32,000	330,000
Clothing ..	9	1,000	8,000	6	3,000	19,000
Transport ..	19	3,000	24,000	8	1,000	11,000
Agriculture and Fishing ..	2	2,000	39,000	3	11,000	150,000
Printing, Paper, &c., Trades ..	3	1,000	32,000	5	6,000	117,000
Woodworking and Furnishing ..	8	1,000	26,000	7	1,000	12,000
Food, &c. Trades ..	6	2,000	34,000	6	1,000	19,000
Other Trades ..	16	2,000	26,000	19	2,000	10,000
Employees of Public Authorities ..	16	3,000	40,000	5	2,000	15,000
Total ..	174	270,000	3,419,000	165	128,000	1,298,000

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING MARCH, 1923.

Occupations and Locality. §	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object. §	Result. §
	Directly.	Indirectly. §	Began.	Ended.		
BUILDING TRADES:—						
Building trades operatives.—Eastern Counties of England.	10,000||	..	1 Mar.	..	Against proposed reduction in the rate of wages of painters below that of craftsmen in the other building trades.	No settlement reported.
Masons, bricklayers, joiners, slaters, plumbers and labourers.—Glasgow and West of Scotland.	2,000	..	5 Mar.	6 Mar.	Against proposed reduction in wages of masons, bricklayers and labourers.	Proposal suspended.
MINING AND QUARRYING:—						
Coal miners, etc.—Newport, Mon. (near).	2,300	..	5 Feb.	..	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	No settlement reported.
Coal miners, etc.—Maesteg, Garw, Ogmores and Giffach Districts of Glamorganshire.	15,000	..	19 Mar.	22 Mar. ¶	Refusal to work with non-members of the South Wales Miners' Federation.	Non-members joined the Federation.
METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES:—						
Shipyard painters—Belfast ..	800	..	8 Mar.	14 Mar.	For advance in wages ..	Claim promised special consideration.
TEXTILE TRADES:—						
Cotton spinners, etc.—Stockport	939	..	22 Feb.	..	Against proposed change in piece price list, involving reduction in wages. <i>See</i> page 123.	No settlement reported.
Jute workers—Dundee ..	29,000**	..	23 Feb.	..	Against landing of fish from German trawlers.	No settlement reported.
AGRICULTURE AND FISHING:—						
Fishing vessels' skippers, mates and crews.—Aberdeen.	700	2,400††	24 Feb.	..	Dispute arising out of proposed reduction in standard rate of wages from 6d. to 5½d. per hour, and increase in standard working hours from 50 to 54 per week.	No settlement reported.
Farm workers—Norfolk.	8,000‡‡	..	12 Mar. §§	..	Dispute arising out of objection to non-unionists.	No settlement reported.
OTHER TRADES:—						
Manufacturing stationery, etc., employes—London.	748	..	9 Mar.	..	Dispute arising out of refusal of workpeople to handle goods both to and from firm involved in strike.	No settlement reported.
Packers, porters, etc. (H.M. Stationery Office)—London.	556	..	28 Mar.	..		No settlement reported.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (*i.e.*, number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† Disputes involving 130,000 workpeople in the engineering industry and 80,000 workpeople in shipyards were in progress in March, 1922.

‡ In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the extent of such duplication is, however, very slight.

§ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," *i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

¶ Estimated number who ceased work. By the end of March the number absent from work was reported to have been considerably reduced.

** Number involved at end of March.

†† In addition, about 250 market porters were rendered idle in connection with the dispute.

‡‡ Estimated figure.

§§ Date of commencement of dispute in a few districts. The numbers involved were considerably increased on 17 March and further augmented on 26 March.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

IN the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate reduction of over £64,000 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 920,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £650 in the wages of over 16,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected are shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ..	12,000	665,000	£ 500	£ 35,600
Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Other Metal	4,000	117,000	130	8,200
Food and Drink	—	62,000	—	7,400
Other	250	73,000	20	13,000
Total	16,250	917,000	650	64,200

The principal decreases in the mining group affected coal miners, whose wages were reduced in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and the East Midland area, Radstock and Scotland, the amount of reduction varying from under $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on current rates in Radstock to nearly 3 per cent. in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. In the case of iron ore miners in Cumberland and the Furness district wages were increased by 2d. and 3d. per shift respectively.

In the metal group there were small reductions in the wages of semi-skilled men and labourers in steel melting shops generally, in puddling forges and rolling mills in the North of England, and in steel works in the West of Scotland. Men employed in non-federated shipyards at Belfast and in ship-repairing yards on the Mersey had their wages reduced by amounts varying from 2d. to 2s. 6d. per week. Electric cable makers and heating and domestic engineers also sustained decreases. There was a reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for men employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade. Blastfurnace workers in West Cumberland and North Lancashire received an increase in wages.

In the food and drink trades there were reductions in the wages of male workers employed in the flour milling industry, amounting to 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week in the case of men and 1s. to 2s. per week in the case of youths 18 to 21 years of age. The minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the milk distributive trade in England and Wales were reduced by amounts varying from 6d. to 5s. 6d. per week. Brewery workers at Burton also sustained a decrease.

In other trades the principal reductions affected furniture trade operatives, mill sawyers and packing case makers in Scotland, fellmongers, and men employed in the non-trading services of local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire and the West Midlands.

Under the Trade Boards Acts, in addition to the reductions

mentioned above, there were decreases in the minimum rates fixed for most classes of workpeople employed in the rope, twine and net trade in Great Britain, the retail bespoke tailoring, and brush and broom trades in Northern Ireland, and also for male workers in the retail bespoke tailoring trade in Great Britain, and for female workers in the retail bespoke dress-making trade in Northern Ireland.

Of the decreases taking effect in March, 21, amounting to £36,000 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on the proceeds of the industry or on selling prices; 8, amounting to nearly £13,000 per week, took effect under Trade Board Orders (including £350 under a cost of living sliding scale); 12, amounting to £6,600 per week, were arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople (including £950 under a cost of living sliding scale); 13, amounting to £2,250 per week (including the amounts mentioned above) took effect under cost of living sliding scales; two, amounting to £250 per week, were arranged by arbitration; and the remaining 36 cases, amounting to £7,500 per week, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties. Reductions in wages preceded by disputes involving stoppages of work accounted for less than £20 per week. Nine increases in wages were reported in March, six of which, amounting to nearly £500 per week, took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices, the remaining three increases being arranged by direct negotiation.

Summary of Changes in January—March, 1923.

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net		Net Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Building and Allied Trades	100	25,000	10	7,700
Mining and Quarrying ..	138,000	557,000	17,100	12,000
Iron and Steel	19,000	162,000	900	8,000
Engineering, Shipbuilding, &c.	—	148,000	—	24,000
Other Metal	600	76,000	15	10,900
Textile	9,000	55,000	145	5,100
Clothing	7,000	238,000	440	47,500
Transport	2,700	48,000	540	7,900
Furniture and Woodworking	—	27,000	—	4,700
Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, &c.	—	22,000	—	3,300
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	—	107,000	—	17,100
Public Utility Services ..	300	79,000	25	10,500
Other	10,300	35,000	315	4,300
Total	187,000	1,579,000	19,490	163,000

In the corresponding three months of 1922 there was a net reduction of £1,210,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 5,900,000 workpeople, and a net increase of about £3,400 in the wages of 20,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported during March.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923.

NOTE.—The following Table relates mainly to changes which came into operation in March, with effect either from that month or from earlier dates. Certain earlier changes, however, of which particulars were received during March are also included. The weekly rates quoted are in respect of a full ordinary working week and do not take into account the effect of short time working.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics).
MINING AND QUARRYING.				
Coal Mining	Northumberland	1 Mar.	Workpeople (both underground and surface) employed in or about coal mines, other than those workpeople whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 3.42 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 95.30 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per day.
	Durham			Decrease of 5.34 per cent. on standard base rates of 1879, leaving wages 91.68 per cent. above the standard of 1879, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per day.
	Yorkshire and East Midland Area†			Decrease of 4.4 per cent. on standard base rates of 1911, leaving wages 45.21 per cent.† above the standard of 1911.
	Radstock			Decrease of 0.58 per cent. on standard base rates of 1918, leaving wages 32.17 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
	Scotland			Decrease of 1.21 per cent. on standard base rates of 1888, leaving wages 124.19 per cent. above the standard of 1888, subject to the subsistence allowance for surface workers, operative from 1 January, 1922. (See p. 80 of February, 1922, GAZETTE.)

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics. Details of changes in the current rates of wages of agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, however, so far as reported to the Department, are included in the list of principal changes reported. The statistics relate to weekly full-time rates of wages, on the basis of employment of the full numbers of persons in the respective industries.

† Viz, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire.

‡ In the case of West Yorkshire the surface workers' percentage addition to the 1911 standard from 1st March was 43.55 for the Eastern area and 40.21 for the Western Area.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Coke and By-products Manufacture	Durham	1 Mar.	Cokemen and by-product workers	Decrease of 5·34 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 91·68 per cent. above the standard, subject to lower paid men receiving a subsistence wage of 6s. 8½d. per day.
	West Yorkshire ...	Week commencing 12 Mar.		Uniform addition of 47 per cent. made payable on basis rates. Rates after change for able-bodied workmen 21 years of age and over: coke fillers, 6s. 2d.; ram men and pipe fitters, 6s.; tar distiller men and levellers, 5s. 11d.; trammers, valves, daubers, quenchers, winchmen, coke screeners, stamper men, scrubbers, sulphate and benzol men, 5s. 9d.; washery men and washery enginemen, 5s. 6d.; pug mill men and labourers, 5s. 4d., plus in each case 47 per cent.*
	South Yorkshire...	1 Mar.		Decrease of 4·4 per cent. on standard base rates, leaving wages 45·21 per cent. above the standard.
Iron Mining	Cumberland ...	19 Mar.	Iron ore miners	Increase† of 2d. per shift in the bargain price (9s. 7d. to 9s. 9d.) and of 2d. per shift in the minimum wage (6s. 11d. to 7s. 1d.).
	Furness ...	11 Mar.	Winding enginemen Other underground and surface workers	Increase† of 1½d. per shift (8s. 5d. to 8s. 6½d.). Increase† of 1d. per shift for men and of ½d. for boys under 16. Rate after change for underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 3d. per shift.
			Iron ore miners and surfacemen (except blacksmiths and fitters whose wages are not regulated by sliding scale arrangements)	Increase† of 3d. per shift (8s. 4d. to 8s. 7d.) in the bargain price for miners, of 3d. per shift (7s. 7d. to 7s. 10d.) in the minimum wage, of 2½d. per shift for surfacemen, and of 1½d. per shift for boys under 16.
Quarrying	West Cumberland	12 Mar.	Limestone quarrymen	Increase† of 1d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners and of 1½d. per shift for other men and of ¾d. per shift for boys under 16. Rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 4½d. per shift; haulage enginemen, 8s. 0½d.; day borers (1st class), 7s. 10½d.; day labourers (1st class), 7s. 2½d.; ruddmen, 6s. 8½d.
	Leicestershire and Warwickshire	1 Mar.	Granite quarrymen	Decrease of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers and of ½d. per hour for timeworkers. Minimum rate after change for labourers, 11½d. per hour.
	IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.			
Iron and Steel Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay in Mar.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces	Increase† of 2 per cent. on standard of 1919, making wages 33½ per cent. above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus.†
	England and West of Scotland	11 Mar.	Semi-skilled workers and labourers in steel melting shops:— Men on 3 hour shifts§ ...	Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates of 1921, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard.‖
			Men whose wages are based on a 47 hour week§ ...	Decrease† of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages between August, 1914 and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921.‖
			Semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc., in puddling forges and rolling mills:— Men on 8 hour shifts§ ..	Decrease† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard.‖
	North of England	11 Mar.	Men whose wages are based on a 47 hour week§ ...	Decrease† of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921.‖
			Engineers, electricians, strikers, motor attendants, arc lamp trimmers, boilermakers and patternmakers employed at blastfurnaces and iron and steel works	Decrease† of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921.
			Bricklayers in iron and steel works	Decrease† of 0·105d. per hour (1s. 2·37d. to 1s. 2·265d.).
	Barrow-in-Furness	11 Mar.	Bricklayers' labourers General workers employed in steel works	Decrease† of 0·10d. per hour (10·05d. to 9·95d.). Decrease† of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard.‖
	Scunthorpe ...	11 Mar.	Bricklayers' and joiners' labourers in iron and steel works	Decrease of 0·12d. per hour (10·10d. to 9·98d.).
		West of Scotland	11 Mar.	Semi-skilled workers and labourers in steel works	Decrease† of 1½ of the total amount of advance in wages given between August, 1914, and 30th April, 1921, making a total decrease of about 82 per cent. of that advance since 1st May, 1921.‖
Bricklayers' labourers in steel works				Decrease† of 0·08d. per hour (9·30d. to 9·22d.).
ENGINEERING SHIPBUILDING, ETC.				
Engineering, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc.	Mersey District ...	5 Mar.	Men employed in the ship-repairing trade (including engineers)	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were 52s. 6d. per week or over; and of smaller amounts for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were 37s. 6d. per week or under.¶ Rates after change: angle-iron smiths and platers, 60s.; rivetters and caulkers, 54s.; holders-up, 48s.; shipwrights, 54s.; ship joiners, 57s.; ship plumbers, 54s. 2d.; ship painters, 50s. 6d.; fitters and turners, 51s. 6d.; smiths, 52s.; labourers, 40s. 6d.
	Mersey District ...	5 Mar.	Sailmakers	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week (52s. 6d. to 50s.).

* The 47 per cent. quoted is to operate until the first full pay in May. Future adjustments in wages are to be regulated quarterly by the price of coke.

† This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

‡ The percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slaggings, fillers, etc., is 69½ in the Workington area and 64½ in the Furness area.

§ The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen, who receive the allowances or extra payments mentioned.

‖ Under an agreement arrived at between representatives of the employers and trade unions concerned it was arranged that in the case of men in receipt of base rates of 5s. per shift or less or 7·66d. per hour, or less, the reduction of 2½ per cent. on base rates, or 1½ of war advances should take effect in two instalments, viz.: 1½ per cent. on 11th March and 1½ per cent. on 8th April.

¶ It was arranged that reductions, each of amounts similar to the above, were to take effect as from 1st January, 22nd January, 12th February and 5th March, making a total reduction after 5th March of 10s. per week in the case of workers whose wages, previous to 1st January, were 52s. 6d. per week or more (including 10s. war bonus).

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923—(continued).

WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923—(continued).				
Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, ETC.—(continued).				
Engineering, Shipbuilding, Ship-repairing, etc. (contd.)	Portsmouth ...	1 Mar.	Men employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry and those employed in H.M. Dockyards, etc.)	Decrease in war bonus of 1s. per week.*
	Belfast (non-federated firms)	1 Mar.	Men employed in the shipbuilding, engineering, etc., trades	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were 52s. 6d. per week or over, and for pieceworkers; with smaller amounts for timeworkers whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were more than 37s. 6d., but less than 52s. 6d. per week; and no reduction for those whose wages (including 10s. war bonus) previous to 1 January were 37s. 6d. per week or under.†
OTHER METAL TRADES.				
Electric Cable Making	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire			Decreases of 2s. 4d. per week for men 21 years and over, of 1s. 8d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 8d. per week for boys 14 to 17 years, of 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 50s. 5½d. to 56s. 4d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 35s. to 42s. 10d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 13s. 6d. to 23s. 3½d.; women 18 years and over, 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.; girls 14 to 17 years, 13s. to 17s. 6d.
	Great Britain, other than the above counties	3rd pay day in Mar.	Workpeople employed in the electric cable making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.)	Decreases of 2s. per week for men 21 years and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 9d. per week for boys 14 to 17 years, of 1s. 6d. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls 14 to 17 years. Rates after change: men 21 years and over, 45s. to 51s.; youths 18 to 20 years, 33s. to 39s. 6d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 12s. 9d. to 21s. 9d.; women 18 years and over, 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.; girls 14 to 17 years, 13s. to 17s. 6d.
	North-East Coast District	1 Feb.		Decreases of from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 11d. per week.
	Yorkshire ...	18 Mar.		Further decreases of from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 11d. per week.
	North-Western District of England	1 Feb.		Decrease of 3s. 11d. per week.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 Feb.		Decreases of from 2s. 9d. to 3s. 11d. per week.
	West Midlands	1 Feb.		
	South Coast District	1 Feb.		
	Devon and Cornwall	1 Feb.		
	Scotland	1 Feb.		
Heating and Domestic Engineering	England and Wales	1 Mar.	Pipe fitters ...	Decreases of from 3s. to 5s. per week.
	Scotland ...	1 Mar.	Pipe fitters and charge hands	Decrease of 1s. 3d. per week. Decrease of 2s. per week.
Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Manufacture	Great Britain ...	26 Mar.	Male workers employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade:— Workers employed as braziers, burnishers, drop-stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, or as annealers or polishers	Decrease of 2s. per week.
		1 Mar.	Workers other than those employed as braziers, burnishers, drop-stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, or as annealers or polishers	Decreases of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade A, 1s. 8d.; Grade B, 1s. 7½d.; Grade C, 1s. 6½d.; Grade D, 1s. 5½d.
Surgical, etc., Instrument Manufacture Nut and Bolt Manufacture	Sheffield ...	5 Mar.	Surgical and dental instrument makers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: pipe fitters, 1s. 6½d.; charge hands—Glasgow and Paisley, 1s. 7½d.; Edinburgh, 1s. 7½d.
	Lancashire and Yorkshire¶	2nd pay day in Mar.¶	Adult male pieceworkers employed in the nut and bolt trade	Decreases in the general minimum time and piecework basis time rates, fixed under Trade Boards Acts, as follows. (See also p. 35 of January GAZETTE):— Decreases in time rates of ½d. per hour for those 21 years of age and over, of ¼d. per hour for those 16 years but under 21 years, and of ¼d. per hour for those under 16 years; piecework basis time rates being fixed at the appropriate minimum time rates, plus 25 per cent. of the time rates applicable, according to the sliding scale, when the "cost of living" index number is less than 1. Decreases in time rates of ½d. per hour (11½d. to 11d.) for those 21 years of age and over, and of ¼d. or ½d. per hour in certain time rates for those under 21 years, piecework basis time rates being correspondingly reduced to 15 per cent. in excess of the appropriate minimum time rates.
Case-Hame, Chain and Cart Gear Making	Walsall ...	5 Feb.	Chain makers ...	Addition of 55 per cent., previously paid, on revised pre-war piecework prices, reduced to 50 per cent., and a decrease of 5 per cent. in wages for timeworkers.
		5 Mar.	Cart-gear and odd workers ...	Addition of 62½ per cent. on base piece-rate earnings, previously paid, reduced to 60 per cent.
Farriery	Newcastle, North and South Shields	12 Feb.	Farriers ...	Decrease of 12½ per cent.
	Wolverhampton ...	12 Mar.	Farriers ...	Decrease of 10 per cent.
Hosiery Manufacture	Dumfries and District	1st week in Feb.	Workpeople employed in hosiery manufacture	Further decrease of 12½ per cent., leaving wages 100 per cent. above pre-war prices.
				Further decrease of 10 per cent., leaving wages 80 per cent. above pre-war prices.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
				Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½d.
				Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 6d.; doormen, 1s. 5½d.
				Decrease of 1½d. in the shilling on rates fixed in November, 1919, making a total reduction of 2d. in the shilling on those rates. Minimum rates after change: timeworkers—men, 46s. 8d.; women, 26s. 8d.; pieceworkers—men, 50s.; women, 30s.

* It was arranged that reductions, each of 1s. per week, were to be made on 1st December, 1922, 1st January, 1st February, 1st March and 1st April, 1923.
† It was arranged that reductions, each of amounts similar to the above, were to take effect as from 1st January, 1st February, 1st March and 1st April, making a total reduction after 1st April, of 10s. per week in the case of pieceworkers and of timeworkers whose wages previous to 1st January were 52s. 6d. per week or more.
‡ Excluding any service bonus which may be due.
§ The grades are as follows: Grade A: London. Grade B: Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and Walsall, and all towns between, together with the Potteries District, Stafford, Coventry, Rugby, Tamworth, and Burton-on-Trent, Lancashire and Cheshire, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Scarborough. Grade C: Parts of Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire not included above, and Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Cardiff and Bristol. Grade D: All other districts.
¶ This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in accordance with the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number.
‡ A decrease of 5 per cent. took effect on the 1st pay day in March, but it was subsequently agreed that the decrease in March should be limited to 2½ per cent. and that further reductions, each of 2½ per cent., should take effect on the 2nd pay day in June (in lieu of the 1st pay day as originally arranged) and the 1st pay day in September.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Rope, Twine and Net Manufacture	Great Britain	1 Mar.	TEXTILE TRADES—(continued).	
			Male workers	Decreases of from ½d. to 2d. per hour in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, and of 2d. or 2½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rates. Minimum time rates after change for those 21 years and over, 10d. to 11½d. per hour; piecework basis time rates (all ages), 11d. to 1s. 0½d. (See also p. 115 of March GAZETTE.)
			Female workers	Decreases of from ½d. to 1d. per hour in the minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, and of ½d. or 1d. per hour in the piecework basis time rates. Minimum time rates after change for those 18 years and over, 6d. to 6½d. per hour; piecework basis time rates (all ages), 6½d. to 7½d. (See also p. 115 of March GAZETTE.)
			Pieceworkers	Reduced scale of minimum piece rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. (See also p. 115 of March GAZETTE.)
Boot and Shoe Repairing	Northern Ireland	5 Mar.	CLOTHING TRADES.	
			Pieceworkers employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade	New list of minimum net piece rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, for making and repairing in lieu of the minimum piece rates, subject to deductions of 12½ per cent. to 20 per cent. previously fixed. (See also p. 115 of March GAZETTE.)
Retail Bespoke Dressmaking	Northern Ireland	19 Mar.	Female workers other than learners and also except those 20 years and over with not less than two years' experience after learnership who are fully qualified bodice, skirt, gown or blouse hands	Decrease in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for Class A,* of ½d. per hour for homeworkers, and of 1d. per hour for other workers, and for Class B,* of 1d. per hour for all workers. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: Class A,* 7½d., 8½d., Class B,* 7d., 8d.
			Female learners	New scales of minimum weekly rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, starting at 6s. and 5s. for Class A* and Class B* respectively during 1st year, and increasing to 21s. and 18s. during 4th year.
	Great Britain	1 Mar.	Male workers (other than certain classes of learners and apprentices):— With not less than five years' experience	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— Decrease of 2d. per hour. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: less than 1 year's employment after 5 years' apprenticeship, 1s. 1d., 1s. 2½d.; 1 year and less than 3 years, 1s. 2d., 1s. 3½d.; not less than 3 years, 1s. 3d., 1s. 4½d.; those employed on military dress uniforms (excluding khaki), naval frock and dress uniforms, hunt coat and riding breeches, frock and dress coats and Court and diplomatic garments, 1s. 5d., 1s. 6½d. (See also pp. 114-5 of March GAZETTE.)
			Other workers, except cutters and trimmers	Decrease of 1d. per hour. Minimum time rate after change, 1s. (See also pp. 114-5 of March GAZETTE.)
			Male timeworkers	Decrease of 8s. per week in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: 60s.,† 64s. and 68s.
	Liverpool	Mar.	Male pieceworkers	Decrease of 1d. per log hour (London log). Log rates† after change: 1st class shops, 10½d.; 2nd class shops, 9½d.; 3rd class shops, 9d.
			Women	Trade Board rates for timeworkers and pieceworkers to be paid (subject to higher rates for extra skill and experience); for those employed on log rates, the rates to be 1d. per hour less than for men.
			Log workers	Decrease of 1d. per "log" hour (London "log"). Rates after change: males—No. 1 shops, 10½d.; scheduled garments, 11d.; No. 2 shops, 9½d.; scheduled garments, 10½d.; No. 3 shops, 9d. Females, 8½d.
	Manchester	19 Mar.	Pieceworkers	Decrease of 10 per cent. for male workers and rates adopted for female workers so as to yield not less than 10½d. per hour (42s. per week) for workers of Grade I. as defined by the Trade Board, and 8½d. per hour (34s. per week) for all other workers.
			Male timeworkers	Decreases of 6s. per week for Grade I. and II. workers, and 8s. per week for Grade III. workers. Rates after change: Grade I., 70s.; Grade II., 66s.; Grade III., 60s.
			Female timeworkers	Decreases of 2s. 6d. per week for Class A workers and 4s. per week for Class C workers, the rate for Class B workers remaining unchanged. Rates after change: Class A workers, 42s. 6d.; Class B, 39s.; Class C, 30s.
Retail Bespoke Tailoring			Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade:	Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see also p. 152):—
			Male workers:	Decreases of 2d. per hour for timeworkers and of 2½d. and 2d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate for Class A and B respectively.§ Minimum time rates after change: Class A, 1s. 4½d.; Class B, 1s. 5d.
			Other workers with not less than four years' apprenticeship or learnership	Decrease of 3½d. and 1½d. for Class A and B respectively.§ Minimum time rates after change: Class A, 1s. 2½d.; Class B, 1s. 3½d.
			Male apprentices	Decreases varying from 1s. to 5s. 6d. per week.
			Male learners	Decreases varying from 1s. to 6s. 6d. per week.
			All other male workers (except cutters and trimmers)	Decreases varying from 3s. to 7s. 6d. and 1s. to 5s. 6d. per week in Class A and B respectively.§ Minimum rates after change: Class A, under 15 years, 9s., increasing to 48s. 6d. at 22 and over. Class B, under 15, 11s., increasing to 50s. 6d. at 22 and over.
	Northern Ireland	10 Mar.	Female workers:	Decrease of 1½d. per hour. Minimum time rates after change: Class A, 10½d.; Class B, 10½d.
			20 years and over with not less than four years' experience, employed in certain occupations.	Decrease of 1d. and 1½d. per hour in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively. Minimum time rates after change: Class A, 9d.; Class B, 9½d.
			19 years and over, with not less than four years' experience in the trade, employed as button-holers, finishers or machinists||	Decreases varying from 1s. to 4s. 6d. per week.
			Female learners	Decrease of 1½d. and 1d. per hour in the minimum time rates in Class A and Class B respectively.§ Minimum rates after change: Class A, 6½d.; Class B, 7½d.
			All other female workers ..	

* Class A:—Workers employed within the areas of the County Boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry.

Class B:—Workers employed in areas other than those specified in Class A.

† This rate is to be regarded as applying to old and slow workers.

‡ The log rates for special garments, i.e., naval and military dress uniforms, hunt coats and breeches, frock and dress coats and court and diplomatic garments are ½d. more in each case.

§ Class A.—Workers employed in (a) areas administered by Rural District Councils or (b) areas with a population not exceeding 2,000, as returned at the last census, administered by Urban District Councils or other local authorities. Class B.—Those employed in other areas.

|| Other than machinists who do the whole machining on a garment.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
Retail Bespoke Tailoring (contd.)	Belfast	10 Mar.	CLOTHING TRADES—(continued). Workpeople employed in the tailoring trade ("log" workers)	Rates adopted of 1s. 2d. per "log" hour in first class shops, 1s. 1d. per "log" hour in second class shops, and 1s. per "log" hour in third class shops, less 20 per cent. in each case.
Agriculture	Holland District Devonshire	5 Mar. 26 Mar.	AGRICULTURE AND FISHING. Adult male labourers Male labourers	Rate of 6½d. per hour adopted for a week of 54 hours.* Rates adopted up to 29 September for a week of 51 hours, varying from 10s. at 14 and under 15 to 21s. at 18 and under 19, and to 30s. at 21 and over.†
Fishing	Somerset Swansea	25 Mar. 1 Mar.	Adult male labourers Crews of trawlers	Rate of 27s. adopted for a week of 54 hours.* Decrease of 4s. per week for boatswains and of 5s. per week for other classes. Rates after change: boatswains, 66s. per week, plus 6s. per £100 gross takings; deck hands and cooks, 55s. per week, plus 2s. 6d. per £100 gross; firemen, 62s. per week.
Printing	Manchester	Week ending 20 Jan.	PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES. Compositors, composing machine operators, etc., employed in daily newspaper offices	Decrease of 3s. per week.
Furniture Manufacture	High Wycombe	Pay day in week ending 24 Mar.	FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING TRADES. Journeymen Caners Matters Apprentices and learners Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, french polishers, machinists, upholsterers, upholsterers sewers and sand paperers Apprentices:— Machinemen (4 years) All other male workers (5 years) Female workers (4 years)	Decreases of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled processes, 1s. 6d.; Windsor, cane and cheap rush bottom chairmakers, packers, markers out and benders, 1s. 5½d. Decreases of ½d. per chair on bedroom chairs bored 21 and 23, and of ½d. per hour on Manchester rockers, etc. (9d. to 8½d.). Decreases of ½d. per chair on ordinary chairs, and proportionate amounts on children's and kindergarten chairs. Decreases of from 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 1st half-year, 10s. 6d., increasing to 32s. during 8th half-year. Decreases of 1d. per hour for men, ½d. per hour for women, and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change: Beith and Lochwinnoch, men, 1s. 4d.; women, 8d.; Dundee and Kirkcaldy, men, 1s. 4½d.; women, 8½d.; Glasgow, men, 1s. 5½d.; women, 8½d. Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 20 per cent. of the district minimum rates during 1st half of the 1st year, and increasing to 55 per cent. during 2nd half of the 4th year. Scale of minimum rates adopted, starting at 15 per cent. of the district minimum rates during 1st year and increasing to 55 per cent. during 2nd half of the 5th year. Scale of minimum rates adopted starting at 20 per cent. of the district minimum rates during 1st half of the 1st year, and increasing to 60 per cent. during the 2nd half of the 4th year.
	Beith, Dundee, Glasgow, Greenock, Kirkcaldy, Lochwinnoch and Renfrew	1st full pay week in Mar.		Decreases of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: wood-carvers, 1s. 6½d.; others, 1s. 5½d. Decreases of ½d. per hour (9d. to 8½d.).
	Aberdeen	1 Mar.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chairmakers, upholsterers and french polishers Women	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3d.). Decreases of ½d. per hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 6d.).
Mill Sawing	Tyne District|| Bristol	12 Mar. 6 Mar.	Labourers Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills and box and packing case shops Woodcutting machinists	Decrease of 1d. per hour (1s. 4d. to 1s. 3d.). Decreases of ½d. per hour (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 6d.). Decrease of ½d. per hour. Minimum rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 4½d.
	Scotland	2nd full pay in Mar.	Sawyers and machinists	Decrease of 3s. 11d. per week. Rates after change: sawyers, 60s. 5d. to 60s. 7d.; machinists, 63s. 1d. or 63s. 2d.
	Belfast	6 Mar.	Yardmen and labourers	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week (43s. 6d. to 42s.).
Packing Case Making	Manchester, Salford and Bolton Scotland (except Aberdeen)	1 Jan. 2nd full pay in Mar.	Packing case makers Packing case makers and woodcutting machinists employed in packing case shops	Decrease of 1½d. per hour for men (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 7d.) and of proportionate amounts for apprentices. Decrease of ½d. per hour for journeymen and of ½d. per hour for apprentices. Rates after change: packing case makers—Glasgow, 1s. 4½d.; Edinburgh, Leith, Dunfermline and Dundee, 1s. 3½d.; woodcutting machinists (all districts), 1s. 4½d.
Flour Milling	Great Britain¶	**	FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES. Male workers employed in the flour milling industry (including motor lorry drivers, carriers and horse carmen where previously included with mill employees)	Decreases, for those 21 years and over, of 2s. 6d. per week for those in Class A, AA and B mills, and of 2s. per week for those in Class BB and C mills, and of amounts varying from 1s. to 2s. per week for those 18 and under 21, the rates for those under 18 remaining unchanged. Rates after change for men 21 and over: first rollers—Grade I.—Class A, 68s.; Class AA, 65s. 6d.; Class B, 63s.; Class BB, 59s. 6d.; Class C, 56s.; Grade II.—Class A, 66s.; Class AA, 63s. 6d.; Class B, 61s.; Class BB, 57s. 6d.; Class C, 54s.; Grade III.—Class BB, 55s. 6d.; Class C, 52s. General labourers, etc., all grades—Class A, 52s.; Class AA, 49s. 6d.; Class B, 47s.; Class BB, 43s. 6d.; Class C, 40s.

* The rate was not agreed to by the Workers' side of the Conciliation Committee, but formed the subject of a recommendation by the Employers' Executive.

† The rates were agreed upon by the local Conciliation Committee set up under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921.

‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number.

§ Including Blyth, Dunston, Jarrow, Newcastle, North and South Shields, and Tyne Dock.

¶ The decrease took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry. A list of the districts comprised by each class was given on page 555 of the GAZETTE for October, 1921.

** The reduction was arranged to take effect six clear weeks after the 1st pay day in February.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES—(continued).				
Baking and Confectionery	Certain towns in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, including Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Chesterfield and Pontefract; also Grimsby	Pay day in week beginning 5 Mar.	Workpeople employed by co-operative societies:— Male workers	Decrease of 3s. per week for adults and of 1s. 6d. or 2s. 6d. per week for juniors. Rates after change: foremen, chargemen, singlehands, 70s. 6d.; dough-mixers, ovenmen, secondhands, 65s. 6d.; tablehands, 60s. 6d.; allied workers, 52s. 6d.
			Female workers	Decreases of 2s. 6d. per week for those 18 and over and of 1s. 6d. per week for those under 18 years.
	Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Keighley, Leeds, Wakefield and York	Pay day in week beginning 19 Mar.	Workpeople employed by co-operative societies:— Male workers	Decrease of 3s. per week for adults and of 1s. 6d. or 2s. 6d. per week for juniors. Rates after change: foreman, chargemen, singlehands, 70s. 6d.; dough-mixers, ovenmen and secondhands, 65s. 6d.; tablehands, 60s. 6d.; allied workers, 52s. 6d.
			Female workers	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for those 18 years and over, and of 1s. 6d. per week for those under 18 years.
Brewing	Certain towns in North-East Lancashire*	10 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease of 4s. per week for adults, and of 2s. per week for juniors. Rates after change: tablehands, 62s.; labourers, 50s.
	Bolton	3 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease of 2s. per week for adults. Rate after change for tablehands, 68s.
	Liverpool and Birkenhead	Week ending 3 Mar.	Male brewery workers ..	Decrease of 3s. per week for men and of 1s. 6d. per week for juniors. Rate after change for men 21 and over, 63s.
			Men 21 years and over ...	Decrease of 2s. per week. Standard rates after change: labourers, 51s.; loaders and stowers, 54s.; shiftmen, 55s.; lorry drivers, 61s.; carters—1-horse, 51s.; 2-horse, 53s.
Milk Distribution	Burton-on-Trent ...	1 Mar.	Youths	Decreases of 1s. to 2s. per week.
			Women and girls	Decrease of 1s. per week. Standard rates after change: 14 years, 14s. 2d., increasing to 31s. at 21 and over.
			Workpeople employed in the milk distributive trade:— Male workers: Foremen	Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See also p. 151). Decreases of 5s. 6d., 3s. and 2s. for Areas A, B and C respectively. Minimum† rates after change: Area A, 51s.; Area B, 64s.; Area C, 70s. 6d.
			Sterilizers (other than assistant sterilizers) and clerks	Decreases varying from 6d. to 5s. per week. Minimum† rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 46s. 6d.; Area B, 57s.; Area C, 61s.
Milk Distribution	England and Wales	24 Mar.	Shop assistants, roundsmen, pasteurizers, assistant sterilizers and all other workers	Decreases varying from 6d. to 4s. 6d. per week. Minimum† rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 42s.; Area B, 52s.; Area C, 56s.
			Female workers: Clerks	Decreases varying from 6d. to 2s. per week. Minimum† rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 31s. 6d.; Area B, 36s.; Area C, 42s. 6d.
			Shop assistants	Decreases varying from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum† rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 27s.; Area B, 31s.; Area C, 36s. 6d.
			All other female workers (except roundswomen)	Decreases varying from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum† rates after change: 21 years and over—Area A, 26s. 6d.; Area B, 30s.; Area C, 34s. 6d.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS.				
Fell-mongering	England and Wales	1st pay week in Mar.	Male workers 21 years and over	Decrease of 1d. per hour for timeworkers and an average decrease of about 5½ per cent. in piece rates for pulling. Rates after change for timeworkers: skilled, 1s. 2½d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 0½d.; unskilled, 11d.
Saddlery and Harness			Youths	Decreases of ½d. to 1d. per hour.
			Gig saddlers, harness makers, etc. (wholesale trade)	Decrease† of 1d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.) and of 7½ per cent. in percentage payable on price lists for pieceworkers, leaving wages 82½ per cent. and 67½ per cent. above the list for heavy and light work respectively.
	London (Metropolitan Police Area)	1st pay day in Mar.	Brown saddlers	Decrease† of 1d. per hour for timeworkers (1s. 6d. to 1s. 5d.) and of 7½ per cent. in percentage payable on price lists for pieceworkers, leaving wages 67½ per cent. above list prices.
			Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:— Male workers 21 years and over (other than apprentices) employed in certain operations‡: Timeworkers Pieceworkers	Decreases in the minimum rates, fixed under the Trade Boards Acts, of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See also p. 152). Decrease of 1½d. per hour (1s. 4½d. to 1s. 3d.). Decrease in minimum piece rates, fixed in November, 1921, of 7½ per cent. (except for fancy finishing, finishing, and hand boring), making a total reduction of 15 per cent.; and new minimum piece rates fixed for single drafting.
Brush and Broom			Male workers employed in painting brush making	Decrease in minimum piece rates, fixed in January, 1922, of 7½ per cent., making a total reduction of 15 per cent.
			Other male workers (including apprentices)	Decreases of from ½d. to 1d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 11d.
			Female workers: Timeworkers	Decreases of ½d. or ¾d. per hour, and decrease of ¾d. per hour in piecework basis time rate. Minimum time rate after change at 21 years and over, 7½d.
	Northern Ireland	12 Mar.	Pieceworkers	Decrease in the minimum rates fixed in November, 1921, of 7½ per cent. for machine drawn work and hand drawing (except certain operations), making a total reduction of 15 per cent., and decrease of 12½ per cent. for machine hands (boring and filling).

* Including Accrington, Blackburn, Clitheroe, Colne, Darwen, Great Harwood, Nelson and Southport.

† Area A.—(a) All areas administered by Rural District Councils and (b) all areas administered by Municipal Borough Councils and Urban District Councils which according to the most recent census had a population of less than 10,000; but so as in neither case to apply to any area within the Metropolitan Police District.

Area B.—All areas other than those to which scales A and C apply. Area C.—The area comprising the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District.

‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number.

§ Pan (hair and bass), hairs, finishing, boring (hand and machine), drawing, bone brush cutting, fashioning, drilling and profiling, the manufacture of artists' medical, painting, whitewash and tar brushes, and brushes not otherwise specified, the drafting, dressing (including cutting), or mixing of animal hair, bass, whisk or celluloid, and the turning of bone.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH, 1923—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS—(continued).				
Co-operative Distribution	Gloucester, Hereford and Stroud	5 Mar.	Male assistants	New scale of rates adopted resulting in decreases of from 6d. to 3s. per week (except for those of 22 years, for whom there was no change). Rate after change at 23 years and over, 60s.
			Female assistants	
Electricity Supply	North East Coast*	18 Mar.	Workpeople employed by Electricity Supply Undertakings	Bonus of 8½ per cent., previously paid, on total earnings reduced to 4½ per cent. Minimum hourly rates after change for general indoor and outdoor labourers respectively: Zone A, 7.25d., 7.75d.; Zone B, 6.56d., 7.05d.; Zone C, 6.28d., 6.75d.; plus, in each case, 21s. 9d. per week and 4½ per cent.
	Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, North Nottinghamshire, and North Derbyshire†	1st full pay in Mar.		Rates of wages adopted for electrical fitters and wiremen, telephone electricians, mechanical fitters and armature winders, of 1s. 6d. per hour in Zone A areas, of 1s. 5½d. in Zone B, of 1s. 4½d. in Zone C, and a decrease of 1d. per hour for other workpeople. Minimum hourly rates after change for general indoor and outdoor labourers respectively: Zone A, 1s. 2d., 1s. 2½d.; Zone B, 1s. 1½d., 1s. 1½d.; Zone C, 1s. 0½d., 1s. 0½d.†
	West Midlands ...	1st pay day in Feb.		Decrease of 0.32d. per hour (1s. 3d. per week), leaving the hourly rates of wages varying, according to Zone, from 3.43d. and 4.18d. at 16 years to 10.68d. and 11.68d. at 20 years.
	Bradford	13 Mar.		Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: motormen, 1s. 2.66d. to 1s. 4.15d.; conductors, 1s. 2.475d. to 1s. 3.85d.; car cleaners, 1s. 3.125d.; and labourers, 1s. 3.33d. per hour; handymen, 1s. 3.85d.
Tramways	Halifax	7 Mar.	Motormen, conductors, car cleaners and general labourers employed by Corporation	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: motormen, 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3½d.; conductors, 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2½d.; car cleaners, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 2½d.; general labourers, 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2½d. per hour.
	Leeds	7 Mar.	Motormen, conductors, car cleaners and car repairers employed by Corporation	Decrease of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: motormen, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 3½d.; conductors, 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2½d.; car cleaners, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 2½d. per hour.
Local Authority Services	Lancashire and Cheshire†	1 Mar.	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments of certain Local Authorities (excluding those whose wages are regulated by other trades)§	"Cost of living" bonus reduced from 90 per cent. to 80 per cent. on basic rates. Schedule rates after change: Labourers—Zone A, 50s. 5d. (basic rate, 28s.); Zone B, 46s. 10d. (basic rate, 26s.); Zone C, 45s. (basic rate, 25s.). Street sweepers, Zone A, 46s. 10d. (basic rate, 26s.); Zone B, 43s. 2d. (basic rate, 24s.); Zone C, 41s. 5d. (basic rate, 23s.); Zone D, 37s. 10d. (basic rate, 21s.).†
	West Midlands‡	1st pay day in Mar.	Manual workers employed in non-trading departments of Local Authorities (excluding those whose wages are regulated by other trades)	Decrease of 2s. 1d. per week for Zones A1 and A2, of 2s. per week for B1, of 1s. 11d. for B2, of 1s. 9d. for B3, of 1s. 7d. for C1, and of 1s. 5d. for C2. Minimum weekly rates after change for general labourers and scavengers: Zone A1 areas, 50s. 10d.; Zone A2, 49s. 5d.; Zone B1, 46s. 8d.; Zone B2, 43s. 11d.; Zone B3, 41s. 3d.; Zone C1, 37s. 7d.; Zone C2, 33s. 11d.‡
	Wiltshire	12 Mar.	Roadmen employed by County Council	Increase to a minimum rate of 30s. per week.
	Kent	19 Feb.	Workpeople employed by County Council	Decrease of 5s. 8½d. per week for vehicle drivers, of 4s. 2d. for foremen, of 3s. 8d. for skilled labourers, of 2s. 7d. to 3s. 1d. for unskilled labourers and scavengers. Rates after change: vehicle drivers, 54s. 2d.; steam roller drivers, 53s. 1½d.; skilled labourers, 42s. 8½d.; unskilled labourers and scavengers, 40s. 7½d. to 41s. 8d.

* The undertakings affected by the reduction include the following:—Zone A: Darlington, Middlesbrough, Newcastle and District Electric Lighting Co., Ltd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd. (partly), South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland Tynemouth, West Hartlepool. Zone B: Skelton and Brutton Electric Supply Undertaking Ltd., Berwick-on-Tweed Urban Electric Supply Co., Ltd. Zone C: Northern Counties Electricity Supply Co., Ltd., Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Co., Ltd. (partly). The rates actually paid to labourers by some of these undertakings are higher than the minimum rates quoted above, which are those recognised by the District Joint Council.

† The above change took effect under Decision No. 767, dated 28th February, of the Industrial Court. The undertakings affected, and their respective Zones, are as follows:—Zone A: Bradford, Grimsby, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull Lincoln, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield, Shipley. Zone B: Barnsley, Batley, Chesterfield, Doncaster, Dewsbury, Harrogate, Keighley, Mexborough, Scarborough Electric Supply Co., Ltd., Wakefield. The rates actually paid to labourers by some of these undertakings are higher than the minimum rates quoted above, which are those recognised by the District Joint Council.

‡ This decrease includes a decrease of 5 per cent. under the "cost of living" sliding scale and also the last instalment, 5 per cent., of the 15 per cent. reduction, which was agreed upon in May, 1922, by the Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Council. The Authorities which follow the reductions decided upon by the above Council are named below. The figure in brackets after an Authority indicates the basic rate for general yard labourers (where known). Authorities printed in italics pay such men the same rate as a builder's labourer. Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-in-Makerfield (26s.), Ashton-on-Mersey (25s.), Ashton-under-Lyne, Aspull (25s.), Atherton, Audenshaw, Bacup (25s.), Barrow (26s. 1d.), Barrowford (24s.), Billinge, Blackpool (26s. 7d.), Bollington, Bolton (28s.), Bowden (22s.), Brierfield (26s.), Bury, Chadderton (27s. 1d.), Chester (25s.), Chorley (25s.), Clayton-le-Moors (6d. per hour), Clitheroe (27s.), Colne (6d. per hour), Crompton, Dalton-in-Furness (27s.), Darwen (26s.), Droylsden (26s.), Dukinfield, Eccles, Failsworth, Farnworth (26s.), Fleetwood (25s.), Glossop (23s.), Golborne (25s. 5d.), Great Harwood (6d. per hour), Haslingden (28s.), Haydock, Hazel Grove and Bramhall, Heywood, Hindley, Hoyle and West Kirby, Hurst, Hyde, Lee-in-Garth (27s.), Kirkham, Lees (26s.), Leigh, Littleborough (26s.), Little Hulton (5½d. per hour), Little Lever, Liverpool (28s.), Lytham St. Anne's (25s.), Macclesfield (25s.), Manchester (28s.), Marple (26s. 6d.), Middleton (26s.), Milnrow (23s. 6d.), Morecambe (25s.), Mossley (27s. 3d.), Nantwich (20s.), Newton-in-Makerfield (24s.), Norden (23s.), Northwich (22s.), Oldham (8s.), Ormskirk (22s.), Padinhim (26s. 10d.), Preston (27s.), Prestwich (28s. 5d.), Radcliffe (23s.), Ramsbottom (24s.), Rawtenstall, Rishiton (5½d. per hour), Rochdale, Royton (26s.), St. Helens (26s.), Sale, Salford, Skelmersdale, Stalybridge (23s. 6d.), Standish, With-Langtree (25s.), Southport (26s.), Stretford (26s.), Swinton and Pendlebury (26s.), Trawden, Turton (24s. 9d.), Tyldesley, Ulverston, Upholland (24s.), Urmston, Wallasey (25s.), Warrington (24s. and 26s. and some at building rate), Westhoughton (27s.), Whitefield (25s.), Widnes (6½d. per hour), Wigan (27s. 3d.), Wilmslow, Withnell (21s.), Worsley (31s.), and R.D.C.s of Barton-upon-Irwell (25s.), Blackburn, Burnley, Fylde, Leigh, Limehurst and West Lancashire (20s. and 21s.).

§ Excluding also in most cases such men as paviors, street masons and sewerers; and in certain cases, general yard labourers and road labourers. (See note †).

|| This decrease was recommended by the West Midlands Joint Industrial Council and is distinct from decreases resulting from the "cost of living" sliding scale. The Authorities following the recommendation include: Zone A1: Birmingham; Zone A2: Burton-on-Trent, Coventry (certain classes), Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton; Zone B1: Coseley, Kenilworth, Leamington, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Rugby, Stafford; Zone B2: Audley, Brierley Hill, Lichfield, Leek, Lye and Wollescote, Shrewsbury, Sedgley, Stone, Warwick; Zone B3: Tettenhall; Zone C1: R.D.C.s of Cannock, Cheadle.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN APRIL, 1923.

The following groups of workpeople are affected by reductions already reported as having been arranged to take effect in April:—Men employed by public works contractors in London; shipbuilders at Belfast; metallic bedstead makers in the Midlands; copper workers in South Wales; seamen; dock labourers in Northern Ireland; coopers; leather tanners and curriers; workpeople employed in the gas and electricity supply industries. In the case of the following groups increases in wages have been arranged, with effect from various dates in April; ironsstone miners in Cleveland; iron ore miners in Cumberland; blastfurnace workers in Cleveland; ironworkers in the North of England and the Midlands; and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

THE results of recent ascertainment of the selling prices of iron are given below :—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average Selling Price Per Ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Pig Iron :		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cleveland (No. 3) ..	Jan.-Mar.	92 10½	+ 4 6	+ 4 4½
Cumberland ..	Jan.-Feb.	95 7	+ 3 4	†
	Jan.	94 6	+ 2 3	— 11 3
	Feb.	96 6	+ 2 0	— 5 7
Manufactured Iron :				
North of England ..	Jan.-Feb.	206 11½	+ 7 2	— 29 10½
(Bars and angles)				
West of Scotland ..	Jan.-Feb.	216 11½	+ 0 6	— 38 7½
(Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.)				

Pig Iron.—The rise in the ascertained selling price of Cleveland pig iron for the quarter ended March, 1923, resulted in an increase of 4½ per cent. on standard wages of blastfurnacemen (with effect from 1st April, 1923). The rise in the ascertained price of Cumberland pig iron for January and February resulted in an increase of 2 per cent. on standard rates for blastfurnacemen, while the rise in the ascertained price for January resulted in an increase of 3d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage of iron ore miners, and the wages of limestone quarrymen were also increased by 1½d. per shift. The ascertainment for Cumberland pig iron in February resulted in an increase of 1½d. per shift for limestone quarrymen and of 2d. per shift in the bargain price and minimum wage of iron ore miners.

Manufactured Iron.—The rise in the ascertained selling price of manufactured iron for January and February in the North of England resulted in an increase in the wages of puddlers and millmen of 2½ per cent. on standard rates from 2nd April, 1923. In the West of Scotland the ascertainment for the same two months left wages unchanged.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

QUARTERLY RETURNS OF SALES.

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales† in the Fourth Quarter of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (—) compared with	
	1922.	1921.	1917.	Year ago.	Five Years ago.
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY :—	£	£	£		
Distributive Departments ..	18,190,082	19,609,224	14,265,096	— 7.2	+ 27.5
Productive ..	5,256,491	5,847,379§	4,633,892	— 10.1	+ 13.4
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY :—					
Distributive Departments ..	4,624,733	5,287,870¶	4,654,268	— 12.5	— 0.6
Productive ..	1,395,373	1,588,747¶	1,799,373	— 12.2	— 22.5
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE :—					
Productive Departments ..	140,121	139,431	161,276	+ 0.5	— 13.1
Total Distributive Departments ..	22,814,815	24,897,094	18,919,364	— 8.4	+ 20.6
Total Productive Departments ..	6,791,985	7,575,557§	6,594,541	— 10.3	+ 3.0
Grand Total GREAT BRITAIN	29,606,800	32,472,651§	25,513,905	— 8.8	+ 16.0

ASSISTED PASSAGE SCHEMES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE numbers of applications received and of assisted passages granted during March, 1923, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act (see March, 1923, GAZETTE, page 84), together with the number of assisted passages granted from the inception of these schemes to the end of March, 1923, are shown in the following table :—

Destination.	Applications received in March.	Assisted Passages granted in March.	Total Assisted Passages granted.	
			1922.	Jan.-Mar. 1923.
Australia ..	10,000¶	2,391	7,058	6,483
New Zealand ..	268	437	1,133	1,222
Ontario ..	(Not available.)	371	—	771

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

† No ascertainment was made for this period.

‡ The figures given for Productive Departments represent Sales and Transfers to the Distributive Departments.

§ Revised figures.

¶ These figures relate to a period of 14 weeks.

¶ Approximate total.

The numbers of applications shown are exclusive of any dependants of the applicants for whom assisted passages are desired, but the numbers of passages granted relate to the total numbers, inclusive of dependants.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

BEFORE building operations are begun in this country, the plans of the buildings* which are to be erected have generally to be submitted for approval to the competent Local Authority of the district; accordingly, periodical statistics of the estimated cost of buildings for which plans have been approved provide an indication of the prospects of employment for workpeople in the building trades and various subsidiary industries.

From early in 1910 to the year 1920 statistics were regularly collected by the Department and published in this GAZETTE, showing the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans had been approved in a considerable number of the principal towns. In view of the rapid changes in the costs of building and of the considerable number of plans approved upon which work was not proceeding, the publication of these statistics was discontinued after October, 1920; but as the influence of these two factors has become less marked, publication was resumed last month.†

Returns have been received from 142 Local Authorities giving particulars of the numbers and estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed in March. The summarised figures for March are given in the following Table, together with similar figures relating to plans passed in these 142 localities in the first three months of this year :—

Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 142 towns from which returns have been received.					
District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received. ‡	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses, and other business premises.	Churches, Schools and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations.
TOTAL.					

(a) MARCH, 1923.

	£	£	£	£	£	£
ENGLAND AND WALES—						
Northern Counties						
(852,887)	71,600	5,000	38,400	—	32,200	147,200
Yorkshire .. (2,376,167)	425,700	44,200	54,300	80,600	116,500	721,300
Lancashire and Cheshire						
(2,304,845)	434,300	45,500	34,400	24,600	73,600	612,400
North and West-Midland Counties .. (1,565,321)	124,900	29,500	22,500	16,200	80,500	283,600
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,260)	171,600	12,000	8,700	4,500	22,400	219,200
Outer London† (2,097,303)	939,500	34,900	143,000	24,400	73,600	1,215,400
South-Eastern Counties						
(1,038,221)	166,900	15,000	8,500	2,300	89,200	281,900
South-Western Counties						
(432,465)	34,100	3,000	2,100	—	13,100	52,300
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (834,190)	124,500	15,500	8,700	14,100	14,900	177,700
SCOTLAND .. (2,146,377)	94,200	13,700	7,200	44,600	248,100	407,800
Total .. (14,289,036)	2,587,300	228,300	327,800	211,300	764,100	4,118,800

(b) JANUARY TO MARCH, 1923.

	£	£	£	£	£	£
ENGLAND AND WALES :—						
Northern Counties						
(852,887)	183,200	33,700	50,600	29,100	71,600	368,200
Yorkshire .. (2,376,167)	824,800	143,700	151,700	196,200	339,200	1,656,200
Lancashire and Cheshire						
(2,304,845)	946,300	131,800	126,200	46,700	181,500	1,432,500
North and West-Midland Counties .. (1,565,321)	322,400	124,000	98,300	127,800	236,800	909,300
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,260)	468,800	44,100	38,000	16,200	57,500	624,600
Outer London† (2,097,303)	221,000	81,600	250,800	148,100	222,600	2,915,100
South-Eastern Counties						
(1,038,221)	635,600	20,400	44,300	32,300	204,400	937,000
South-Western Counties						
(432,465)	177,000	3,800	8,000	13,000	40,400	242,200
Wales and Monmouthshire .. (834,190)	214,000	20,600	37,900	21,200	42,700	336,400
SCOTLAND .. (2,146,377)	427,100	82,400	24,600	158,700	629,600	1,322,400
Total .. (14,289,036)	6,411,200	686,100	830,400	789,900	2,026,300	10,743,900

It will be seen that the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans were passed in March, in the 142 localities to which the figures relate, is approximately £4,100,000, compared with an average of £3,300,000 in the preceding two months. Dwelling houses account for over one-half of the estimated total cost of all the buildings for which plans were approved by the Local Authorities who have supplied information to the Department.

* There are some exceptions e.g., Government Buildings, Asylums.

† See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1923, page 85.

‡ The figures are exclusive of the London County Council area, as to which particulars are not available.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and the Board of Health in Scotland.)

THE number of persons relieved on one day* in March, 1923, in the 31 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 533 per 10,000 of population, showing a decrease of 20 per 10,000 on the previous month and a decrease of 16 per 10,000 on a year ago.

As compared with February, 1923, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 35,605 (or 3.7 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients of relief was lower by 1,221 (or 1.0 per cent.), while the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 34,384 (or 4.1 per cent.). One district showed no change, five districts showed increases, and every other district showed a decrease. The greatest decreases were in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (172 per 10,000) and in the Stockton and Tees district (117 per 10,000).

As compared with March, 1922, the total number relieved showed a decrease of 28,514 (or 3.0 per cent.). The number of indoor recipients increased by 1,512 (or 1.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor recipients decreased by 30,026 (or 3.6 per cent.). Nineteen districts showed decreases and every other district showed an increase. The most marked changes were decreases in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (472 per 10,000), and in the Stockton and Tees district (325 per 10,000), and increases in the Paisley and Greenock district (250 per 10,000 of population), and in the Glasgow district (238 per 10,000).

Three districts showed increases ranging from 77 to 142, and seven districts showed increases ranging from 10 to 42 per 10,000 of the population.

Selected Urban Areas.†	Number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief on one day* in March, 1923.				Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.‡						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District	9,367	11,044	20,411	251	– 16	– 54
North District	10,436	27,820	38,256	380	– 21	– 6
Central District	2,600	3,212	5,812	437	– 13	– 51
East District	10,135	55,687	65,822	1,038	– 14	+ 134
South District	20,039	90,159	110,198	581	– 23	– 3
TOTAL, Metropolis ..	52,577	187,922	240,499	536	– 20	+ 5
West Ham	4,247	68,778	73,025	991	– 16	+ 142
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ..	2,690	31,493	34,183	703	– 17	+ 77
Stockton and Tees District§	1,217	21,259	22,476	855	– 117	– 325
Bolton, Oldham, etc. ..	3,992	6,987	10,979	141	+ 4	+ 14
Wigan District	1,792	12,614	14,406	332	– 1	– 78
Manchester District ..	8,893	34,141	43,034	426	+ 7	– 25
Liverpool District ..	10,232	57,744	67,976	575	– 8	– 149
Bradford District ..	1,755	4,987	6,742	184	– 9	– 71
Halifax and Huddersfield ..	1,251	3,566	4,817	128	+ 3	– 50
Leeds District	2,467	10,125	12,592	262	– 28	+ 37
Barnsley District ..	910	8,409	9,319	298	– 19	– 25
Sheffield District ..	2,654	47,169	49,823	990	– 68	– 129
Hull District	1,818	13,820	15,638	505	– 20	– 11
North Staffordshire ..	2,065	5,992	8,057	199	– 12	– 26
Nottingham District ..	2,094	9,485	11,579	254	– 25	+ 22
Leicester District ..	1,184	2,816	4,000	171	– 17	– 40
Wolverhampton District ..	3,239	27,544	30,783	439	– 44	– 143
Birmingham District ..	7,175	53,555	60,730	660	– 63	– 198
Bristol District ..	2,562	13,075	15,637	386	– 30	+ 10
Cardiff and Swansea ..	2,418	15,718	18,136	393	+ 17	– 7
TOTAL "Other Districts"	60,408	380,499	440,907	437	– 21	– 66
SCOTLAND.‡						
Glasgow District	4,969	111,512	116,481	1,203	– 13	+ 238
Paisley & Greenock Dist.	812	16,103	16,915	884	– 55	+ 250
Edinburgh & Leith Dist.	1,634	16,261	17,895	426	+ 5	+ 42
Dundee and Dunfermline ..	749	3,658	4,407	214	..	+ 25
Aberdeen	520	5,914	6,434	405	– 9	+ 20
Coatbridge and Airdrie ..	399	7,629	8,028	791	– 172	– 472
TOTAL for the above Scottish Districts }	9,083	161,077	170,160	832	– 19	+ 126
TOTAL for above 31 Districts in March, 1923 }	126,315	798,276	924,591	533	– 20	– 16

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 31st March, and those for Scotland to 17th March.

† These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district.

‡ Exclusive of Casuals; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only. The figures for Scotland include destitute able-bodied unemployed in receipt of poor-law relief.

§ The numbers included for the Middlesbrough Union do not cover changes which have taken place since the 24th March, 1923.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1923, was 36. Two deaths due to lead poisoning (one in the pottery industry and one in electric accumulator works) and one due to toxic jaundice were reported during the month. Five cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during March, but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

(a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING.

Among Operatives engaged in—

Smelting of Metals ..	2
Plumbing and Soldering ..	4
Printing	1
File Cutting and Hardening ..	...
Tinning of Metals ..	...
Other Contact with Molten Lead ..	3
White and Red Lead Works ..	1
Pottery	—
Vitreous Enamelling ..	...
Electric Accumulator Works ..	6
Paint and Colour Works ..	2
Indiarubber Works ..	...
Coach and Car Painting ..	...
Shipbuilding .. ..	...
Paint used in other Industries ..	3
Other Industries ..	1
TOTAL OF ABOVE... ..	23

HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING ..

5

(b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING.

Mercury Poisoning ..	...
Phosphorus Poisoning ..	...
Arsenic Poisoning ..	...
Toxic Jaundice—	
Arseniuretted Hydrogen Gas ..	1
Other ..	1
Epitheliomatous Ulceration—	
Paraffin ..	...
Pitch ..	2
Tar ..	...
Chrome Ulceration—	
Manufacture of Bichromates ..	2
Dyeing and Finishing ..	1
Chrome Tanning ..	...
Other ..	1

TOTAL OTHER FORMS OF POISONING ..

8

(c) CASES OF ANTHRAX—

Wool	2
Handling of Horsehair ..	2
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ..	1
Other Industries ..	...

TOTAL ANTHRAX ..

5

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.‡

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during March, 1923, was 196, as compared with 224 in the previous month and 214 a year ago. The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

RAILWAY SERVICE.		Factories and Workshops (continued):	
Brakemen and Goods	1	Boiler Making & Constructional Engineering ..	...
Guards	2	Locomotives, Railway & Tramway Carriages, Motors, Aircraft ..	5
Engine Drivers ..	2	Other Metal Trades ..	1
Firemen	2	Shipbuilding ..	8
Guards (Passenger) ..	...	Wood	3
Permanent Way Men ..	5	Gas	4
Porters	3	Electric Generating Stations ..	...
Shunters	3	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ..	3
Mechanics	1	Chemicals, etc. ..	2
Labourers	2	Food and Drink ..	4
Miscellaneous	2	Paper, Printing, etc. ..	2
Contractors' Servants ..	...	Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	...
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ..	21	Rubber Trades ..	...
MINES.		Other Non-Textile Industries ..	4
Underground	79	TOTAL FOR FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ..	60
Surface	17	Docks, Wharves, etc., s. 104 ..	7
TOTAL, MINES	96	Buildings, s. 105 ..	7
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep ..		Warehouses, s. 104 and Railway Sidings, s. 106 ..	1
Factories and Workshops.		TOTAL	75
Cotton	2	Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 ..	
Wool, Worsted, & Shoddy ..	3	Total (excluding Seamen) ..	
Other Textiles .. ..	...	196	
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ..	...	
Metal Extracting and Refining ..	5		
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ..	6		
Metal Founding	5		
Engineering and Machine Making ..	3		

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

† Cases include all attacks reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

‡ Based on Returns from the Home Office, the Mines Department, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.*

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.
	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
UNITED KINGDOM ..	109	158	120	80	68	31 Mar. '23
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.						
Austria (Vienna) ..	..	..	9,320†	323,100	107,830	Feb. '23
Belgium† ..	..	359	310	281	339	Mar. '23
Czechoslovakia§ ..	..	..	1,246	1,330	834	Feb. '23
Denmark ..	112	153	136	84	80	Jan. '23
Finland ..	..	882	1,178	1,005	980	Jan. '23
France (Paris)§ ..	161	273	206	197	221	Mar. '23
" (other towns) § ..	188||	288||	250||	212||	231	Feb. '23
Germany ..	..	..	1,391	6,736	331,400	Mar. '23
Holland (The Hague) ..	..	143	113	80	66	Nov. '22
" (Amsterdam) ..	110	117	85	44	45	Jan. '23
Italy (Rome) ..	106	218	302	359	376	Dec. '22
" (Milan) ..	210	345	406	392	400	Feb. '23
Norway ..	189	219	195	133	114	Mar. '23
Poland (Warsaw) ..	..	..	45,555	129,711	493,032	Jan. '23
Sweden§ ..	210	197	132	79	66	Mar. '23
Switzerland ..	..	..	110	57	51	Feb. '23
United States ..	86	115	45	39	39	Mar. '23
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.						
Australia ..	47	94	61	48	44	Feb. '23
Canada ..	86	127	48	38	45	Mar. '23
India (Bombay) ..	..	88	74	60	49	Mar. '23
Irish Free State ..	..	..	..	87†	96	Jan. '23
New Zealand ..	44	67	64	44	41	Mar. '23
South Africa ..	39	97	39	16	17	Feb. '23

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium, in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, Florence, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, average, 1913; South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in March the increase for all working-class families ranged from 339 to 349 per cent. § Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. || Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE COST OF FOOD, TOGETHER WITH (SO FAR AS POSSIBLE) HOUSE-RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.†

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.*	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.†					Latest figures available.
		July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.		
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
UNITED KINGDOM ..	A, B, C, D, E	105—	152	119	84	74	31 Mar. '23
FOREIGN COUNTRIES		110					
Austria (Vienna) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	9,700§	254,400	960,000	Feb. '23
Belgium ..	A, C, D, E	..	353	279	266	308	Mar. '23
Bulgaria ..	A, D	..	..	1,512	2,331	2,398	Oct. '22
Denmark ..	A, B, C, D, E	111	162	137	99	98	Jan. '23
Finland ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	811	1,039	1,018	1,033	Jan. '23
France (Paris) ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	263†	195†	189†	200	4th Qtr. 1922
Germany ..	A, B, C, D	..	..	..	5,282	285,700	Mar. '23
Italy (Rome) ..	A, B, C, D, E	105	213	287	329	339	Dec. '22
" (Milan) ..	A, B, C, D, E	180	341	394	388	397	Feb. '23
Luxemburg ..	A, C, D	..	..	284	259	299	Dec. '22
Norway ..	A, B, C, D, E	180	202§	202§	155§	140	Mar. '23
Poland ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	25,609	78,698	571,125	Feb. '23
Spain (Madrid) ..	A, D	74†	90†	84	79	81	Feb. '23
" (Barcelona) ..	A, D	81†	91†	78	73	64	Feb. '23
Sweden ..	A, B, C, D, E	157	170	136	90	77	Apr. '23
Switzerland ..	A, D	..	..	..	59	57	Feb. '23
United States ..	A, B, C, D, E	77§	117§	80||	67§	70	Dec. '22
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia ..	A, B	33†	67†	46†	43	43	3rd Qtr. 1922
Canada ..	A, B, C, E	..	..	..	42	42	Aug. '22
Egypt (Cairo) ..	A, B, D	56	90	52	46	52	Mar. '23
India (Bombay) ..	A, D	..	..	93	72	69	Jan. '23
Irish Free State ..	A, B, C, D	..	89	77	65	54	Mar. '23
New Zealand ..	A, B, C, D, E	..	..	..	85§	90	Jan. '23
South Africa ..	A, B, D	32	49	57	44	43	Nov. '22
		25	62	30†	20	20	Feb. '23

* A=Food; B=House-Rent; C=Clothing; D=Fuel and Light; E=Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Rome, Milan, Luxemburg and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Egypt and Germany, average, 1913-1914; Poland, January, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Bulgaria, average, 1901-1910. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. || Figure for May.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries, are, however, not the same as those of the United Kingdom statistics, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 129-130 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in other countries. For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries see Report issued in 1922 by the International Labour Office under the title "Methods of Compiling Statistics of Unemployment" (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7.)]

GERMANY.

Employment in February.—The issue of the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* for 1st April reports that throughout February the labour market continued to show signs of worsening. Contrary to expectation, however, a progressive slackening of the rate of decline in the number unemployed, together with a positive increase in the number of employed women, were observable during the month. Short-time working on a considerable scale enabled many manufacturers in unoccupied Germany who could find no market for their products to retain the greater part of their staffs. The additional opportunities for employment which present themselves with the advent of spring appear also to have had some effect.

The figures relating to the number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of out-of-work donations in February are incomplete, returns from important areas not being received. So far as can be ascertained, the total for 1st March was 194,591, as compared with 149,181 for 1st February.

Returns from trade unions show an increased number of organised workers out of employment. Out of 5,600,000 included in the returns 319,117, or 5·7 per cent. of the total, were out of work on 24th February, as compared with 4·4 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 2·7 per cent. at the end of February, 1922. The following Table gives particulars for the leading unions included in the returns:—

Unions.	Member-ship reported at end of Feb. 1923.	Percentage Unemployed at end of Month.		
		Feb., 1923.	Jan., 1923.	Feb., 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	5,599,029	5·7	4·4	2·7
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building (Soc. Dem.) ..	459,060	16·9	12·4	14·1
" (Christian) ..	58,243	13·1	6·6	6·1
Painters (Soc. Dem.) ..	53,118	14·7	12·7	10·7
Metal (Soc. Dem.) ..	927,730	2·3	1·3	0·7
" (Hirsch-Duncker) ..	120,354	0·5	0·5	0·3
Textile (Soc. Dem.) ..	706,817	4·8	3·3	0·9
" (Christian) ..	134,540	4·4	2·3	0·4
Clothing (Soc. Dem.) ..	81,940	2·9	2·0	0·2
Boot and shoe ..	98,645	4·6	3·9	1·7
Transport (Soc. Dem.) ..	493,458	2·6	2·7	2·6
Printing ..	64,108	8·4	8·4	1·7
Bookbinding ..	97,406	4·4	4·5	0·9
Woodworking (Soc. Dem.) ..	439,667	2·7	2·4	1·0
Glass (Soc. Dem.) ..	63,653	1·2	0·6	2·4
Porcelain ..	67,619	1·3	..	2·2
Food preparation ..	79,906	2·1	3·4	..
Baking and confectionery (Soc. Dem.) ..	77,457	9·0	9·6	4·5
Tobacco (Soc. Dem.) ..	95,326	27·9	23·8	8·0
Factory workers (irrespective of trade) ..	654,027	4·8	4·2	2·4
Factory and transport workers (Christian) ..	126,766	·1	5·3	1·7
Municipal and State workers	227,011	2·5	2·4	2·2

The above totals do not include persons only partially employed, of whom in February there were 16·5 per cent. among the 4,777,000 trade union members covered by the returns on this subject. The corresponding percentage for January was 13·0.

The returns from public Employment Exchanges, which show the position on 16th March, indicate a considerably larger number of applications for employment, and also an increased number of vacancies notified. At 705 of the larger Exchanges the applications numbered 520,493, as against 63,698 offers of situations. In the preceding month the totals were 426,967 and 54,439 respectively.

Statistics of membership of sickness insurance societies show that in 5,589 societies making returns the membership (i.e., the number of persons under obligation to insure, and hence assumed to be in work) fell from 12,793,802 on 1st February to 12,734,040 on 1st March, or by 0·5 per cent.

FRANCE.*

Unemployment in March.—The total number of unemployed remaining on the "live register" at the Employment Exchanges in the week ended 31st March was 8,868 (6,275 men and 2,593 women). The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 9,112 (4,725 for men and 4,387 for women). During the week under review the Exchanges succeeded in placing 25,232 persons

* Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 6th April, 1923. Paris.

(20,060 men and 5,172 women) in situations, and in addition found employment for 5,199 foreign immigrants.

According to the latest returns six departmental and thirty-seven municipal unemployment funds were in operation throughout France on 5th April, the number of persons in receipt of out-of-work benefit through their agency being 2,560 (2,303 men and 257 women). This total shows a decrease of eleven when compared with the corresponding figure (2,571) for the preceding week. It is to be noted that these figures do not fully indicate the number of persons out of employment, since some localities are without unemployment funds, and where they do exist their record of unemployed persons is not complete.

The total number of unemployment funds established is 264, of which thirty-one are departmental and 233 municipal. The maximum number of persons in receipt of donations (91,225) was reached in March, 1921.

BELGIUM.*

Unemployment in January and February.—The most recent figures available are provisional in character and relate to February. Returns received by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour from 1,680 approved unemployment funds, with a total membership of 663,188, show that 20,236 of these were either wholly or partially unemployed at the end of the month. The aggregate days of unemployment in February numbered 289,933, as against 392,869 in January.

Revised and final figures are given for January, in which month 1,755 funds, with an aggregate membership of 667,873, reported 11,386 (or 1·7 per cent.) wholly unemployed and 14,343 partially so on the last working day of the month (3rd February).

During February 12,692 applications for employment were received at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 15,950 in January. Vacancies notified by employers numbered 10,612 (13,153 in January). For every 100 situations registered as vacant there were thus 120 applications, as compared with 121 in January.

SWITZERLAND.†

Unemployment in February.—According to figures compiled by the Central Employment Department of Switzerland, on the basis of returns from Employment Exchanges, the number of applicants for work remaining on the "live register" on the 28th February was 52,734 (as compared with 56,275 at the end of the preceding month, and 99,541 at the end of February, 1922). Of these, 13,644 were employed on relief works, leaving 39,090 entirely without work. Among the applicants for employment were 10,132 normally engaged in the building trades, 6,378 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 6,035 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades, and 4,655 in the textile trades. In addition to the foregoing persons entirely without work, 21,791 were reported as only partially employed, including 10,569 in the textile trades, 4,854 in the metal, engineering and electrical trades, 1,825 in the food preparation trades, and 1,790 in the watch, clock and jewellery trades. The vacancies offered by employers remaining unfilled at the end of February numbered 2,109.

During the month of February on an average 558 applications were made for each 100 vacancies for men and 187 for each 100 for women. In January the figures were 624 and 196 respectively.

SWEDEN.‡

Unemployment in January.—The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions on 31st January was 21·4, as compared with 21·7 at the end of the preceding month and 34·9 on 31st January, 1922. The following Table gives corresponding particulars for the principal unions covered by the returns:—

Unions.	Membership reporting on 31st Jan., 1923.	Percentage Unemployed.		
		31st Jan., 1923.	31st Dec., 1922.	31st Jan., 1922.
All Unions making Returns ..	113,483	21·4	21·7	34·9
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Iron and steel	8,294	40·5	24·7	32·4
Moulders	2,375	27·0	40·6	80·5
Engineering	31,484	25·9	25·9	41·8
Electrical workers	2,025	20·1	20·3	24·4
Textile	5,535	4·0	3·0	6·7
Clothing	2,553	26·6	25·1	18·1
Boot, shoe and leather ..	6,039	7·5	6·6	17·7
Food trade	3,501	12·5	20·0	11·2
Brewery	2,171	9·5	7·0	9·3
Tobacco	2,952	2·7	2·0	1·5
Woodworking	6,079	31·6	28·6	54·3
Paper	6,295	6·7	7·6	36·6
Municipal workers	7,706	3·7	4·7	6·0
General and factory workers ..	12,566	28·2	29·5	44·5
(trades not specified)				

Employment Exchanges in February.—Returns from Employment Exchanges show that for every 100 vacancies notified by employers there were, on an average, 308 applications from unemployed workpeople, as compared with 346 in the preceding month and 479 in February, 1922.

HOLLAND.

Unemployment in February.—H.M. Commercial Secretary at The Hague reports that, according to figures supplied by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance, in the week ended 24th February, out of 326,223 members of unemployment funds making returns, 45,769 (or 14 per cent.) were totally unemployed and 11,685 (3·6 per cent.) partially so. In the last week of the preceding month (ended 27th January) the corresponding percentages were 14 and 3·2 respectively.

AUSTRIA.*

Trade Union Unemployment in December.—On 31st December, 1922, trade unions with a total membership of 620,573 reported 138,583, or 22·3 per cent., unemployed. In addition 206,257 members were reported to be working short time.

Of the 24 unions covered by the returns, the building workers and the boot and shoe makers had the greatest percentages of unemployed members (50·9 and 44·3 respectively), while unemployment was least among engine-drivers, leather workers, artificial flower makers, leather fancy goods makers and textile workers (among whom the proportion out of work was less than 10 per cent.).

UNITED STATES.†

Employment in February.—The Federal Department of Labour Statistics at Washington presents reports concerning the volume of employment in February, 1923, from 4,848 representative establishments, covering 1,924,372 workers in forty-three manufacturing industries. A comparison of the figures with those for identical establishments in January, 1923, shows that, on the whole, there was an increase of 2·3 per cent. in the number of persons employed in the later month. Increases are shown in thirty-two industries and decreases in eleven. The largest increase (17·2 per cent.) appears in the fertiliser industry. Agricultural implements and automobiles show increases of 12·3 and 9·1 per cent. respectively. Decreases are shown in slaughtering and meat packing (4·4 per cent.), and car building and repairing (2·5 per cent.).

An increase of 5·1 per cent. over the preceding month is shown in the aggregate wages paid: in thirty-four of the forty-three industries there were increases and in nine decreases. The largest increase (20·8 per cent.) appears in the automobile industry. Increases are also shown in agricultural implements (15·1 per cent.), and in the fertiliser and women's clothing industries (each 9·1 per cent.).

The following Table affords a comparison between returns from identical establishments in February, 1923, and February, 1922:—

Industry.	Number of Establishments reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Aggregate Weekly Earnings.		
		Feb., 1922.	Feb., 1923.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−)	Feb., 1922.	Feb., 1923.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−)
				Per cent.	Dollars	Dollars	Per cent.
Iron and steel ..	108	119,463	157,430	+ 31·8	2,364,429	4,365,120	+ 84·6
Car building and repairing ..	56	38,756	56,265	+ 45·2	1,025,960	1,512,704	+ 47·4
Automobiles ..	43	93,285	137,407	+ 47·3	2,517,473	4,511,689	+ 79·2
Cotton manufacturing ..	61	58,586	60,628	+ 3·5	979,461	1,075,469	+ 9·8
Cotton finishing ..	17	12,164	13,877	+ 14·1	234,596	309,207	+ 31·8
Hosiery and knit goods ..	76	30,495	30,172	− 1·1	504,723	507,686	+ 0·6
Woollen ..	23	23,654	26,373	+ 11·5	499,905	619,383	+ 23·9
Silk ..	43	17,523	17,647	+ 0·7	366,641	385,064	+ 5·0
Men's clothing ..	43	29,471	29,320	− 0·5	813,674	875,015	+ 7·5
Boots and shoes ..	74	56,338	57,415	+ 1·9	1,283,314	1,329,886	+ 3·6
Tobacco, &c. ..	54	15,020	16,125	+ 7·4	253,036	282,256	+ 11·5
Leather ..	32	11,470	12,394	+ 8·1	248,900	278,776	+ 12·0
Paper ..	48	23,068	24,568	+ 6·5	534,670	607,233	+ 13·6

The net increase in the number of persons employed in the thirteen industries was 20·8 per cent. Eleven industries show increases and two decreases. Automobiles, car building and repairing, and iron and steel show the largest increases (47·3 per cent., 45·2 per cent., and 31·8 per cent. respectively).

All thirteen industries show increases in aggregate earnings, that of 84·6 per cent. in the iron and steel industry being the largest reported.

CANADA.‡

Employment in March.—For 1st March returns were received by the Employment Service of Canada from 6,387 firms, with an aggregate pay-roll of 743,128. On the 1st February the same firms reported 741,511 persons employed. If the number 100 be assigned to the week ended 17th January, 1920, the index number of employment for 1st March is 89·9, as compared with 89·5 for 1st February and 81·9 for 1st March, 1922.

Trade Union Unemployment in February.—At the end of February the percentage out of work among members of trade unions furnishing returns was 6·4, as compared with 7·8 at the end of the preceding month and 10·6 at the end of February, 1922.

* *Industrial and Labour Information*, 9th March, 1923. Geneva.

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Federal Commissioner of Labour Statistics, Washington.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

* *Revue du Travail*, March, 1923. Brussels.

† *Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt*, 15th March, 1923. Berne.

‡ *Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 3, 1923. Stockholm.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, Etc.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Coal Mines Act, 1911.

ACCIDENT TO MINER WALKING ALONG HAULAGE ROAD—BREACH OF STATUTORY REGULATION—COMPENSATION NOT ALLOWED.

SECTION 43 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, provides that no person other than an official of the mines or a person employed on the road in connection with the haulage, or a person engaged in carrying out any repairing work required to be carried out forthwith, shall, while the haulage is in motion, travel on foot on any haulage road on which the haulage is worked by gravity or mechanical power, except—

(a) where there is provided on one side of the road clear space of at least 2 ft. in width between the tubs and that side of the road, and the rate of haulage is not more than 10 miles an hour.

A workman was employed as a hurrier in a mine, and at the conclusion of the night shift, having missed the paddy train, he proceeded to walk along the haulage road, at a curve in which he stumbled, with the result that his leg was caught between the haulage rope and the wall. He was severely injured, and in consequence was totally disabled. The workman brought an action against his employers under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, but liability was denied by the respondents on three grounds, one of which was that the accident arose from a breach of a statutory prohibition.

The Judge of the Dewsbury County Court held that the workman was not entitled to compensation, against which decision he appealed. From the evidence it appeared that the haulage road in the mine varied in width from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft., whilst the tubs were 3 ft. in width, and the rate of haulage was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour. At the spot in the road where the workman fell the width was 8 ft.

The Court of Appeal held that the County Court Judge's finding that there had been a breach of Section 43 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, and that the workman was not entitled to compensation, was correct. The County Court Judge had stated that he was not satisfied that the prohibition of this section of the Act had in fact been brought to the workman's notice, yet the workman could not be heard to say that he did not know what the statute enjoined.—*Hawkridge v. Howden Clough Collieries, Ltd.* Ct. of App. 20th Feb.

(2) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

WORKMAN'S DISREGARD OF THE RULES—FAILURE OF COMPENSATION ACTION.

A claim was heard at the Birmingham County Court under the above Act against the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, brought by a father in respect of his son, who was a fireman employed by the Railway, and was killed by being crushed between two trucks. For the applicant it was contended that the accident arose out of the fireman's employment, and the sum of £250 was claimed on behalf of his mother and sister, who were partially dependent upon the fireman's earnings. For the Railway Company it was argued that the accident arose in consequence of the deceased's negligence in going between the carriages when they were being eased up. Employees had been warned against such a practice, and it was their duty to use a shunting pole when trucks were in motion. The fireman had been supplied with a Book of Rules, in which this warning was clearly set forth.

After hearing the evidence, His Honour dismissed the application, on the ground that the accident arose through the negligence of the deceased. On behalf of the Railway Company it was stated that it was necessary to fight these cases in order that employees should obey the rules which had been made for their own protection.—*Simons v. London, Midland and Scottish Railway.* Birmingham C. Court. 26th March.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

VOLUMES containing the collected decisions of the Umpire appointed under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, respecting disputed claims to benefit, are published by H.M. Stationery Office.

Cases after No. 2000 will not be published in volume form, but summaries of the decisions are printed in pamphlets issued at approximately fortnightly intervals. The pamphlets will be supplied post free, as and when issued, for an annual subscription of 7s. 6d., payable in advance. All applications should be made to H.M. Stationery Office, or at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this Gazette.

The following are recent decisions of general interest:—

CASE No. 4205, SECTION 7 (1) (iii).—AVAILABLE FOR WORK—ENGINEER ACCOMPANYING WIFE WITH THEATRICAL TOURING PARTY—OWN PROSPECTS OF WORK DIMINISHED.

The applicant, whose usual occupation was that of an engineer, reported at the Swindon Employment Exchange on 4th December, 1922, and asked that his claim for benefit should be transferred to that office from the Birmingham Exchange. He had left Birmingham on 19th November, 1922.

He stated that he was travelling about the country with his wife, who was a member of a theatrical touring company, which was performing in Swindon during that week, and he would be proceeding to Bath with the company in the following week. He submitted that he was improving his prospects of securing work by travelling about, and, in the event of his being able to secure work anywhere, he would accept it.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed.

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the recommendation. He did not think the applicant satisfied the conditions of Section 7 (1) (iii), while touring the country. The fact that the applicant remained only 1 week in any particular town made it almost impossible for the Employment Exchanges to keep in touch with him for the purpose of offering work.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed.”

“The applicant, who is an engineer by trade, cannot, in my opinion, be held to be available for work while he is travelling about the country with a touring theatrical company.”

CASE No. 4266, SECTIONS 7 (1) (ii) AND 7 (2) (a)—NOT UNEMPLOYED—ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION—DEFINITION OF “ORDINARILY FOLLOWED”—THREE WEEKS SUFFICIENT IN CASE OF AN ASSOCIATION BRANCH SECRETARY.

The applicant, whose last spell of employment in his usual trade as sheet iron worker lasted for 3 months and ended on 7th December, 1921, was reported to be following an additional occupation as branch secretary of his association, but it was contended that he had not ordinarily followed this occupation contemporaneously with his usual employment. His claim for benefit, which he lodged on 8th December, 1921, was disallowed in December, 1922, under Section 7 (1) (ii).

The applicant stated he was appointed branch secretary on 16th November, 1921, and acted as secretary in conjunction with the retiring secretary until the end of December, 1921. On 1st January, 1922, he took over the full control of the branch, doing all the work outside his usual working hours as sheet iron worker, performing the bulk of the work on Friday evenings and Sundays. He produced figures covering the period 1st January, 1922, to 30th September, 1922, proving that his remuneration from his occupation as branch secretary was less than 3s. 4d. per day on the average.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be allowed under Section 7 (2) (a).

The Insurance Officer declined to accept the Court's recommendation. He did not think that the applicant, who had carried on his employment as branch secretary for only three weeks concurrently with his usual occupation, could be said at the date of his claim for benefit to have *ordinarily* carried on the work as branch secretary in addition to his usual occupation.

The applicant's association stated that the applicant was appointed and recognised as branch secretary as from 16th November, 1921, and was paid his salary from that date. The retiring secretary merely assisted him until the end of the year.

Decision.—“On the facts before me my decision is that the claim should be allowed.”

“The duties of branch secretary of a trade union are ordinarily carried on by a working member in his spare time, and it appears from further evidence now submitted that the applicant whilst still in his usual employment succeeded to the office and followed this occupation in addition to his usual employment for a period of about three weeks, when he lost his usual employment through depression of trade.”

“In the case of an occupation which is not so regularly followed for long periods of time as an additional spare-time occupation, I should have some hesitation in saying that a person who has followed such occupation concurrently with his usual employment for only three weeks, and who may at any time cease to follow this additional occupation, can be said to have *ordinarily* followed it in addition to his usual employment. In the case of a branch secretary, however, I think that the Act is intended to mean that this condition is fulfilled provided that the branch secretaryship is taken up in the normal way, by a man who is in employment at the time, and no particular period can be specified during which the usual employment and the occupation of branch secretary must have been followed concurrently.”

CASE No. 4281, SECTION 7 (1) (ii)—NOT UNEMPLOYED—“REMUNERATION”—CLUB STEWARD RECEIVED NO WAGES BUT GIVEN FREE ACCOMMODATION.

The applicant, who had last been working as a butcher, lost this employment on 30th October, 1922, and on 29th November, lodged a claim for benefit, which was disallowed under Section 7 (1) (ii). It was stated that on 23rd November, 1922, he became engaged at a club as a steward, being required to be present at the club from 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. to closing time. During the day his wife looked after the premises. In return for their services the applicant and his wife were supplied with accommodation in two rooms on the club premises; no monetary payment was made to them.

Recommended by the Court of Referees that the claim for benefit should be disallowed on the ground that on each evening of the week the applicant was following an occupation from which he derived remuneration in the form of accommodation, and which occupation had not *ordinarily* been followed by him in addition to his usual occupation.

Leave to appeal to the Umpire was granted. The applicant stated that actually his wife was appointed as stewardess of the

club, and she took all the responsibility. He did not refute the statement that he acted as steward in the evenings.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed."

"I agree with the recommendation of the Court of Referees. The accommodation in the club given to the applicant and his wife must be regarded as remuneration for his services."

CASE No. 4282, SECTION 7 (1) (ii)—NOT UNEMPLOYED—ADDITIONAL OCCUPATION AS SECRETARY RENEWED WITH NEW EMPLOYER—DIFFERENCE IN REMUNERATION IMMATERIAL.

The applicant, who lost his employment as a correspondence clerk in September, 1921, had carried on in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual occupation the unpaid duties of branch secretary of his trade union since 1918. He gave up his post as branch secretary on losing his work in his usual trade, and on 15th December, 1921, he became secretary of an Allotments Association at a salary of £26 per annum. The salary had been withdrawn, however, as from October, 1922, and he was now unpaid. This office required him to attend on three evenings each week meetings of about one hour's duration.

The claim for benefit was disallowed on the ground that the applicant was not unemployed as from 15th December, 1921.

Recommended by the Court of Referees, held on 7th December, 1922, that the claim for benefit should be disallowed under Section 7 (1) (ii). The Court held that the applicant's work as secretary of the Allotments Association was not an occupation which had been ordinarily carried on in addition to his usual occupation.

The applicant's association appealed to the Umpire. They contended that the applicant's present occupation was similar in character to the work he had carried on as branch secretary of his trade union, and that he had, therefore, ordinarily carried on an occupation as secretary in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual occupation at a remuneration of less than 3s. 4d. per day.

At a hearing before the Umpire it was submitted on behalf of the Insurance Officer that "secretarial work" was too wide and vague to be called "an occupation." If the change were from secretary of a football club to secretary of a cricket club, that might not be a change of occupation, but it would be a change to become secretary of a public company. The words "that occupation" in the fourth line of Section 7 (2) (a) of the Act meant the occupation from which remuneration was derived.

In reply it was explained by the association that their rules provided for payment of branch secretaries, but the applicant in question had chosen not to claim his payment; the money due to him had, however, been placed to his account by their finance department. It was also submitted that the duties of a branch secretary were very similar to those of a secretary of an Allotment Association.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim should be allowed."

"Applicant had whilst in his usual employment ordinarily followed in addition thereto and outside the working hours thereof the occupation of branch secretary of his trade union. After he lost his usual employment he ceased to be branch secretary, and he took up the secretaryship of an Allotments Association at a salary less than 3s. 4d. per day. The work was clerical and substantially of the same kind as that of a branch secretary though the employer was changed."

"I am of opinion that the conditions of the exception in Section 7 (2) (a) of the Act are complied with if the occupation followed whilst out of work is substantially of the same nature and amount as that followed ordinarily by the applicant whilst in employment, although the employer may not be the same and the duties to be performed and remuneration received are not precisely the same."

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919.*

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

RAILWAY ELECTRICAL SHOPMEN (LONDON DISTRICT).—Electrical Trades Union v. Metropolitan District Railway Company, London Electric Railway Company, City and South London Railway Company, Central London Railway Company. Prior to the issue of Decision No. 542 of the Industrial Court negotiations were in progress for the purpose of securing uniform rates and conditions of service for employees in railway workshops; these negotiations failed, and the matter, which was referred to the Court, resulted in Decision No. 728. Decision No. 542 was expressly issued as an interim decision and was not to prejudice the negotiations referred to. Although the electric railway companies concerned had taken part in the negotiations, they were not parties to Decision No. 728, but afterwards applied the decision to the shopmen in their employment. The question before the Court is whether the rates laid down in Decision No. 542 shall be the rates payable to men engaged on work which might ordinarily be carried out by electrical contractors. *Decision.*—Since Decision No. 728 has introduced uniform rates of pay and conditions of service into railway workshops it follows that Decision No. 542 has ceased to operate, and the rates laid down

therein are no longer payable. In the case of a class of work for which no rates are laid down in Decision No. 728 it is open to any of the parties to apply to the Court to have a rate fixed, but having regard to the general nature of the question at issue, the Court refrain from dealing with the rates which should be paid at the Central Overhaul Depot at Acton, although it may be observed that the work carried out there is work executed by the company in the ordinary course of their business and similar to work undertaken from time to time by the company. Issued 19th March, 1923. (768.)

CONCILIATORS, SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

IRON AND STEEL WORKERS: SCUNTHORPE.—Iron and Steel Trades Confederation v. Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association. Difference—Claim by the Frodingham Iron and Steel Company, Limited, Scunthorpe, Lincs., for a reduction in the rates being paid to certain men in connection with their 14" and 28" mills due to improvements in plant and working facilities. Board of Arbitration—Sir William W. Mackenzie, K.B.E., K.C. (Chairman), Mr. W. Simons (Employers' Representative) and Mr. W. Dodgson (Workpeople's Representative). *Award.*—The wages of the men concerned should be reduced as follows:—

14" Mill—By a gross sum of 7½ %.
28" „ —By a gross sum of 12 %.

The parties should agree in what manner the above reductions should be apportioned on the rates of the men concerned. Effective on the first day on which pays are made up next after the date of award. Issued 9th March, 1923. (I.R. 347/2/1923.)

AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BY OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY WORKERS.—Electrical Power Engineers' Association v. Employers' Side of the National Joint Board of Employers and Members of Staffs, Electricity Supply Industry. Difference—Withdrawal of the employers from the Board. *Agreement.*—The Board should resume its functions on the understanding that in cases in which it failed to agree recourse should be had to arbitration under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. The Minister of Labour should decide the form of arbitration in cases of failure to agree on this point. Neither side of the Board, nor any constituent member, should secede from the Board without giving six months' notice. The employers would raise no objection to agreements between the Association and any other trade union for joint action against undertakings refusing to abide by decisions of the Board or of Joint Industrial Councils for the Industry, provided that such action be confined to the defaulting authority. Agreed 24th March, 1923. (I.R. 510/1923.)

TRADE BOARDS ACTS, 1909 AND 1918.

ORDERS.

ORDERS confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the following Trade Boards have been made under Section 4 (2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1918:—

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Scotland).

Order (W.D.S. 14), dated 10th April, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for female workers in the Wholesale, Manufacturing and all other branches of the trade, except the Retail Branch, and specifying 1st May, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The *general minimum time-rates* as varied are 6½d. per hour for female workers (including home workers), other than learners, with rates for female learners ranging from 1½d. to 5¾d. per hour, according to six-monthly period of employment and age on commencing employment.

The *piece-work basis time-rate* for all female workers is 7½d. per hour.

Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales).

Order (M.D. 9 and 10), dated 16th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male and female workers, and specifying 24th March, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The *general minimum time-rates* as varied are:—

(a) for male workers:—

(i.) Foremen; Area A 51s., Area B 64s., Area C 70s. 6d. per week; (ii.) sterilizers (other than assistant sterilizers) of 21 years of age and over: Area A 46s. 6d., Area B 57s., Area C 61s. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21; (iii.) Clerks of 21 years of age and over: Area A 46s. 6d., Area B 57s., Area C 61s. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21; (iv.) shop assistants, roundsmen, pasteurizers, assistant sterilizers and all other

* See also page 153, as to Appointment of a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act.

workers of 21 years of age and over : Area A 42s., Area B 52s., Area C 56s. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21;

(b) for female workers :—

- (i.) Roundswomen (the rates for whom have been in operation since 1st February, 1922) : Area A 37s., Area B 42s., Area C 49s. 6d. per week for workers of 21 years and over, with lower rates for workers under 21; (ii.) clerks of 21 years of age and over : Area A 31s. 6d., Area B 36s., Area C 42s. 6d. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21; (iii.) shop assistants of 21 and over : Area A 27s., Area B 31s., Area C 36s. 6d. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21; (iv.) all other female workers of 21 and over : Area A 26s. 6d., Area B 30s., Area C 34s. 6d. per week, with lower rates for workers under 21.

NOTE.—“Area A” rates apply to all areas administered by (a) Rural District Councils and (b) Urban District Councils which, according to the most recent census, had a population of less than 10,000, but so as in neither case to apply to any area within the Metropolitan Police District.

“Area B” rates apply to those areas to which Scales “A” and “C” do not apply.

“Area C” rates apply to the area comprising the City of London and Metropolitan Police District.

Ostrich and Fancy Feather and Artificial Flower Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (O.F. 6 and 7), dated 20th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male workers, and specifying 1st May, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The general minimum time-rates as varied for male workers, excepting workers employed as dyers in the feather trade are 1s. per hour for workers of 21 years of age and over, and lower rates for workers under 21.

The piece-work basis time-rate as varied for male workers is 1s. 1½d. per hour.

Sack and Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (S.B. 7), dated 26th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male workers, and specifying 9th April, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The general minimum time-rates as varied are 1s. 2d. per hour for male workers of 21 years of age and over employed as superintendents of packing presses (hand or machine) or press foremen (hand or machine) and setters-up and operators of branding machines, 11½d. per hour for other male workers of 21 and over, and lower rates for male workers under 21 years of age.

Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (Q. 24), dated 19th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male workers employed as braziers, burnishers, drop-stampers, dippers, dippers who are also bronzers, or as annealers or polishers, and specifying 7th April, 1923, as the date from which the rates as varied become effective.

The general minimum time-rates as varied for male workers of 21 and over of the classes specified are : (a) 1s. 1d., 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4½d. per hour respectively for braziers, burnishers or drop stampers of Grades I., II. and III.; (b) 1s. 1d. per hour for dippers and annealers; (c) 1s. 1d., 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4½d. per hour respectively for dippers who are also bronzers of Grades I., II. and III.; and (d) 1s. 1d., 1s. 3½d. and 1s. 5d. per hour respectively for polishers of Grades I., II. and III.

The piece-work basis time-rates for the classes of male workers specified above are respectively : (a) 1s. 3½d., 1s. 5½d. and 1s. 7½d. per hour; (b) 1s. 3½d. per hour; (c) 1s. 3½d., 1s. 5½d. and 1s. 7½d. per hour; (d) 1s. 3½d., 1s. 6½d. and 1s. 8½d. per hour.

The general minimum time-rates and piece-work basis time-rates for male workers under 21 years of age engaged on these specified operations are correspondingly lower.

Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order (F. 11), dated 28th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates as varied for male and female workers, and specifying 9th April and 9th July, 1923, as the dates from which the rates as varied respectively become effective.

The general minimum time-rates as varied are 1s. 0½d. per hour from 9th April to 8th July, 1923, and 1s. per hour as from 9th July, 1923, for workers of 24 years of age and over (with corresponding lower rates for younger workers), in the case of male workers and certain classes of female workers engaged in specified occupations, and 6½d. per hour for other female workers of 18 years of age and over, with lower rates for workers under that age.

The piece-work basis time-rates as varied are 1s. 2½d. per hour for all male workers and for female workers employed in the specified occupations, and 7½d. per hour for all other female workers.

Brush and Broom Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.B. (19, 20, 21 and 22), dated the 6th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, guaranteed time-rate, piece-work basis time-rate, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for certain classes of male and female workers, and specifying the 12th March, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are :—

(a) 1s. 3d. per hour for male workers of 21 years of age and over (other than apprentices under 22 years of age) employed in certain operations.

(b) 2½d. to 11d. per hour (according to age) for all other male workers (including male apprentices under 22 years of age).

(c) 2½d. to 7½d. per hour (according to age) for all female workers.

The guaranteed time-rate (as varied) for male apprentices is 11s. per week of 48 hours.

The piece-work basis time-rate (as varied) for female workers is 7½d. per hour.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.D. (12), dated the 12th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for female workers in the Retail Dressmaking branch of the trade, and specifying the 19th March, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are :—

(a) 7d. to 8½d. per hour for all workers, other than learners, according to classification.

(b) 1½d. to 5½d. per hour for learners, according to age and classification.

The piece-work basis time-rates (as varied) are :—

8d. to 9½d. per hour for all workers, other than learners, according to classification.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.T.R.B. (17), dated the 5th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying the 10th March, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective :—

The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are :—

(a) 2½d. to 1s. 5d. per hour for male workers, other than learners and apprentices, according to age and classification.

(b) 2½d. to 7½d. per hour for male apprentices, according to apprenticeship period and classification.

(c) 2½d. to 9½d. per hour for male learners, according to age and classification.

(d) 6½d. to 10½d. per hour for female workers, other than learners, according to classification.

(e) 1½d. to 5½d. per hour for female learners, according to age and classification.

The piece-work basis time-rates (as varied) are :—

(a) 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 6½d. per hour for male workers, other than apprentices and learners, according to classification.

(b) 9½d. to 11½d. per hour for female workers, other than learners, according to classification.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.S. (12), dated the 19th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rate and general minimum piece-rates for female workers, and specifying the 2nd April, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rates (as fixed and varied) are :—

(a) 6d. per hour for female workers other than learners.

(b) 1½d. to 4½d. per hour for learners.

The piece-work basis time-rate for female workers is 7d. per hour.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.M. (10 and 11), dated the 29th March, 1923, confirming general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time rate and overtime rates for male and female workers, and specifying the 7th April, 1923, as the date from which these rates are effective.

The general minimum time-rates (as varied) are :—

(a) 10½d. to 1s. 2½d. per hour for male workers, other than learners, according to classification.

(b) 2½d. to 8½d. per hour for male learners, according to age.

(c) 6d. per hour for female workers other than learners.

(d) 2½d. to 6d. per hour for female learners.

The piece-work basis time-rate (as fixed) for female workers is 7d. per hour.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal (W.D.S. 13), dated 11th April, 1923, to vary by reduction the general minimum time-rates and overtime rates for female learners in the Retail Branch of the trade.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO MAKE SPECIAL ORDERS.

The Minister of Labour has issued Notices of Intention to make Special Orders varying by way of correction the descriptions of the Stamped or Pressed Metal Wares Trade and of the Button-making Trade for purposes of the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918. Copies of the Notices and draft Special Orders can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

Particulars of the minimum rates of wages referred to above, as regards Great Britain, may be obtained by reference to the LONDON and EDINBURGH GAZETTES.

Particulars regarding minimum rates of wages proposed, fixed or varied by Trade Boards established in Northern Ireland, may be obtained from the Secretary, Office of Trade Boards (Northern Ireland), 14, Bridge Street, Belfast.

COMMITTEES AND INQUIRIES.**RESCUE WORK IN MINES.**

THE Secretary for Mines has appointed a committee "to investigate the present arrangements for the provision and maintenance of appliances for use in rescue work, and for the formation and training of Rescue Corps and Rescue Brigades, and to report what steps, if any, should be taken to improve these arrangements by amendment of the law or regulations or otherwise."

The members of the Committee are:—

Mr. T. H. Mottram, C.B.E., H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines (*Chairman*).

Mr. F. H. Wynne, H.M. Divisional Inspector of Mines.

Mr. Percy Ward.

Mr. Robert Clive.

Mr. William H. Telfer.

The Rt. Hon. Thomas Richards, P.C.

Mr. Frank B. Varley.

Mr. James Doonan.

The secretary of the Committee is Mr. F. Mallinson, of the Mines Department (Dean Stanley Street, Millbank, Westminster, S.W. 1).

CIVIL SERVICE (EX-SERVICE MEN).

THE Government are appointing a Committee "to inquire into the action taken throughout the Civil Service in consequence of the Report of the Committee set up in July, 1920, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Lytton; to consider the arrangements for the appointment of ex-Service men to posts in the Civil Service, whether permanent or temporary; and to report to what extent practical effect has been given to the Committee's recommendations in the various Government Departments."

As stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons on 12th April, the Committee has also been asked "to consider the recommendation in paragraph 43 of the Third Interim Report of the Committee regarding the initial rates of remuneration to be prescribed for successful candidates at the special limited competitions for the clerical class, and to advise whether any, and, if so, what, modifications should be made in these rates."

It will be an instruction to the Committee to give immediate consideration to the question of initial rates of remuneration, and to report thereon.

The membership of the Committee is not yet completed.

CIVIL SERVICE AND FIGHTING SERVICES.

THE Government have set up a Committee "to inquire into the present standard of remuneration and other conditions of employment of the various classes of State servants employed in the Civil Service and in the three Fighting Services, and to make recommendations thereon."

The members of the Committee are:—

Sir Alan Garrett Anderson, K.B.E., *Chairman*.

General the Hon. Sir Herbert Lawrence, K.C.B.

Sir W. Peter Rylands.

The Committee have been asked to include in their report a classified statement of increase in the numbers and cost of personnel in these services consequent on duties imposed on them since July, 1914, and the expansion of duties then existing.

PRISON OFFICERS.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a Committee "to consider and report whether any, and, if so, what changes should be made in the remuneration or other conditions of service of officers at the prisons and Borstal institutions in England and Scotland, and at Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, other than the clerical staffs which have been assimilated to the scales

"of pay laid down in the report of the Re-organisation Committee of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service."

The members of the Committee are:—

The Earl Stanhope (*Chairman*).

Mr. James Brown, O.B.E., M.P.

Mr. J. H. McC. Craig.

The Hon. John Dewar.

Mr. A. L. Dixon, C.B., C.B.E.

Lt.-Col. Sir Raymond Greene, Bt., D.S.O., M.P.

The secretary is Mr. L. W. Fox, of the Home Office (Whitehall, London, S.W. 1).

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

THE Minister of Labour has set up a Committee "to inquire into the present conditions as to the supply of female domestic servants, and, in particular to inquire into the effect of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme in this connection; and to make recommendations."

The members of the Committee are:—

Mrs. E. M. Wood, C.B.E. (*Chairman*).

Lady Askwith, C.B.E.

Mrs. Harrison Bell.

Mrs. Burgwin.

Mrs. Cohen.

Lady Procter, C.B.E.

Miss Julia Varley.

Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.

The secretary is Miss E. S. Fraser, of the Ministry of Labour (Queen Anne's Chambers, 28, Broadway, Westminster, S.W. 1).

COAL TRIMMERS (SOUTH WALES).

THE Minister of Labour has appointed a Court of Inquiry, under Part II. of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to inquire into the necessity of putting on a third shift for coal tippers and trimmers in the South Wales coal exporting district.

The members of the Court are:—

Mr. John A. Compston, K.C. (*Chairman*).

Mr. J. T. Clatworthy.

Mr. C. T. Cramp.

Mr. L. Lougher, M.P.

Mr. T. H. Rendell.

The secretary to the Court is Mr. A. B. Valentine, of the Ministry of Labour (Montagu House, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1).

The Court held its first meeting on the 23rd March, and sat a second time, for the hearing of evidence, at the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce on the 9th April.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO LABOUR.

CENSUS.—(1) *Census of England and Wales, 1921. County of London. Text.* (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.) (2) *Census of Scotland, 1921. Vol. I. Part 28. County of Perth.* (S.O. publication; price 9s.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—*Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the local government of Greater London.* (Cmd. 1830; price 6s. 6d.)

MINING.—(1) *Report of the Committee appointed by the University Grants Committee (at the request of the Miners' Welfare Committee) to enquire into the existing facilities for education in coal mining at the universities and technical schools in Britain.* Board of Trade, Mines Department (S.O. publication; price 6d.) (2) *Memorandum on explosives for use in fiery and dusty mines, and the methods of testing them, by the Explosives in Mines Research Committee.* Safety in Mines Research Board. Board of Trade, Mines Department. (S.O. publication; price 3d.)

INDUSTRIAL PAINTS.—*Report of a Committee appointed to re-examine . . . the question of the danger from the use of lead paints to workers in the painting trades, and the comparative efficiency and cost, and effect on the health . . . of . . . lead and leadless paints respectively.* (S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.) (See also page 120 of this GAZETTE.)

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—*National Health Insurance Fund Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1920.* Exchequer and Audit Department. (H.C. 21; price 1s.)

POOR LAW RELIEF.—*Persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief in England and Wales; quarterly statement, 30th December, 1922.* Ministry of Health. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

ROAD FUND.—*Abstract account of the receipts into and payments out of the Road Fund in the year ended 31st March, 1922; together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.* (H.C. 18; price 2d.)

SAVINGS BANKS.—(1) *Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Funds Accounts for the year ended 31st December and 20th November, 1920.* Treasury. (H.C. 139; price 2d.) (2) *Accounts of all deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st December, 1920.* National Debt Office. (H.C. 143 (1921); price 2d.) (3) *Report of the inspection committee of trustee savings banks for the year ended 20th November, 1922. Thirty-first annual report.* (S.O. publication; price 3d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MARCH, 1923.

ADMIRALTY.

CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.

Balata Belting: J. Tullis & Son, London, E.C.—**Bedding Lockers:** F. Braby & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Estler Bros., London, E.—**Bluett Combination Suits:** Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Brass Bars, High Tension:** Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Candles:** Palmer & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Prices Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cans, Oil:** J. G. Carrick & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Canvas:** Francis Webster & Sons, Arbroath.—**Casks and Drums:** L. Berger & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; Jukes, Coulson, Stokes & Co., Ltd., London, E.; F. Francis & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E.; P. D. Mitchell, Ltd., Dundee; B. Noakes & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cells:** Fuller's United Electric Works, Ltd., Chadwell Heath.—**Cells, Inert:** The Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End.—**Condensers:** Dubilier Condenser Co. (1921), Ltd., London, W.—**Cooking Equipment, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Electrodes:** Quasi-Arc Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Fire-hearth Gear:** Carron Co., Falkirk; Darwin, Yeardley & Co., Ltd., Sheffield; Moorwoods, Ltd., Sheffield; C. Portway & Son, Halstead; Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; H. Wilson & Co. (1920), Ltd., Liverpool.—**Flour:** W. Vernon & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; North Shore Mill Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Marriage, Neave & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Furnace Control Equipment, Electric:** Watford Electric & Mfg. Co., Ltd., Watford.—**Glands, Bulkhead and Cable:** Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Gloves, Leather:** John S. Deed & Son, London, W.C.; E. & W. C. French, Ltd., Taunton; North of England Chamois Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne.—**Hammers, Pneumatic Riveting:** Globe Pneumatic Eng. Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Helmets, Sun:** E. Day (St. Albans), Ltd., St. Albans; J. Compton & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Hides and Leather Goods:** Geo. Angus & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Barrowfield Leather Co., Glasgow; J. & F. J. Baker & Co., Ltd., Colyton, Devon; John S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C.; F. C. Jenner & Co., London, S.E.; J. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Halifax; S. E. Norris & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Insulators, Porcelain:** Bullers, Ltd., Hanley & Tipton, Staffs.; Taylor, Tunnicliff & Co., Ltd., Hanley, Staffs.—**Ironplate Workers' Wares:** W. B. Bawn & Co., Ltd., London, E.; F. Braby & Co., Ltd., London, N.W.; Cockburns, Ltd., Glasgow; Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston; Lancaster & Co. (Bow), Ltd., London, E.; Pratt Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; Sheet Iron Workers, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Ironmongery:** Carron Co., Falkirk; Douglas Bros., Ltd., Blaydon-on-Tyne; W. Gilpin, Senr., & Co. (Tools), Ltd., Cannock; J. Hill & Sons, Stourbridge; G. Hughes & Sons, Wolverhampton; A. E. Jenks & Cattell, Ltd., Wolverhampton; S. Lewis & Co., Ltd., Dudley; Emma Orton, Willenhall; E. Partridge & Co., Old Hill; H. J. & E. Shorthouse, Birmingham; Swindell & Co., Netherton; W. H. Tildesley, Willenhall; T. B. Wellings & Co., Ltd., Old Hill.—**Lace, Gold:** William Bunn & Son, London, S.W.—**Lamps, Blow and Gear:** Howes & Burley, Ltd., Birmingham; The Kitson Eng. Co. (London), Ltd., Stamford, Lincs.—**Linoleum:** Tayside Floorcloth Co., Ltd., Newburgh, Fife.—**Machine, Coil Winding:** Igranic Electric Co., Ltd., Bedford.—**Machines, Milling:** Cunliffe & Croom, Ltd., Manchester.—**Manganese Bronze Ingots:** J. Stone & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Marine Glue Pitch:** Grindley & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Mop Heads:** T. M. Clewes & Son, Cradley, Worcs.—**Motors:** Laurence, Scott & Co., Ltd., Norwich.—**Mustard:** J. Farrow & Co., Ltd., Peterborough; Keen, Robinson & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Packing, Cotton and Hemp:** J. W. Roberts, Ltd., Armley, Leeds.—**Plant, Cellulose:** Masson, Scott and Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Plates, Cast Steel Bed:** J. Rogerson & Co., Ltd., Wolsingham.—**Scuttles, Side and Deadlights:** Gabriel & Co., Birmingham.—**Shorts, Cellular and Cotton Fabric:** Johnson & Sons, Ltd., Great Yarmouth.—**Starter, Automatic, for 1,100-H.P. Motor:** Brook, Hirst & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Tallow:** L. & J. Maclellan, Glasgow; Thorne & Fehr, London, E.C.—**Timber, English:** R. Batcheller & Sons, Ltd., Maidstone; Bowerman & Sons, Ltd., Bridgwater; Child & Son, Slinfold; C. R. Claridge, Exeter; C. Miles & Sons, Stamford; G. Randle & Son, Ltd., Bridgwater; E. C. White & Son, Ltd., Basingstoke.—**Timber, Yellow Pine:** N. Christensen, London.—**Timber, Rock Elm:** Price & Pierce, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tin and Japanned Wares:** John Robertson, Aberdeen; G. Welford & Son, Ltd., London, E.; M. J. Hart & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Griffiths & Browett, Ltd., Birmingham; Welsh Tinplate & Metal Stamping Co., Ltd., Llanelly; Froggatt & Tyler, Ltd., Bilston; Bulpitt & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham; Farmer & Chapman, Ltd., Bilston; T. G. Blood, Birmingham; T. J. Bartlett, London.—**Varnishes, Lacquers, etc.:** Blundell, Spence & Co., Ltd., Hull; Robert Ingham, Clark & Co., Ltd., London; Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; W. S. Jenkins & Co., London, N.W.; Jenson & Nicholson, Ltd., London, E.; Naylor Bros. (London), Ltd., Slough; C. Orme & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Paripan, Ltd., London, W.; C. W. Waters, Ltd., London, E.C.; L. G. Wilkinson, Ltd., London, E.C.; S. Wills & Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Vests, Summer:** I. & R. Morley, Nottingham.—**Vests, Winter:** Atkins Bros., Hinckley.—**Wire Rope, Patent:** Bullivant & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Wire Ropes:** Binks Bros., Ltd., London, E.; Caledonian Wire Rope Co., Ltd., Airdrie; E. Ellis & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Glahelm & Robson, Ltd., Sunderland; Webster & Co., Ltd., Sunderland; Whitecross Co., Ltd., Warrington.

ADMIRALTY.

(CIVIL ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF'S DEPARTMENT.)

Devonport: Portland Cement: Smeed, Dean & Co., Ltd., Sittingbourne.—**Liverpool, R.N.V.R.:** Berthing of H.M.S. "Irwell," Construction and Completion of Reinforced Concrete, Dolphins, Bollards, etc.: B. Morton & Sons, Manchester.—**Portsmouth:** Steel Sashes: J. Williams & Co., Cardiff. Asphalte Macadam: The Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Portland Cement: The Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**H.M. Naval Establishments Abroad:** Steel Fencing and Gates: Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, Ltd., London, E.C. Paint Materials: Craig & Rose, Ltd., London, S.E. Asbestos Cement Slates and Sheets: Bell's Poilite & Everite Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Oil Pipework for Pump House: Glenfield & Kennedy, Ltd., Kilmarnock. C.I. Pipes, Valves and Filters: Glenfield & Kennedy, Ltd., Kilmarnock. Steel Fencing and Gates: W. Bain & Co., Ltd., Coatbridge; Bayliss, Jones & Bayliss, London, E.C.

WAR OFFICE.

Acid, Sulphuric: Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.—**Bicycles:** Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd., Small Heath, Birmingham.—**Bodies, Motor:** John C. Beadle, Ltd., Dartford; The London Improved Motor Coach Builders, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Boots:** Adams Bros., Raunds; W. Lawrence, Ltd., Raunds; W. Nichols & Son, Ltd., Kettering; W. Patterson & Sons, Ltd., Dundee.—**Shoes, Canvas:** Adams Bros., Raunds; R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; Stead & Simpson, Ltd., Leicester.—**Cloth, Blue:** J. Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth; Wilcock & J. Rhodes, Ltd., Leeds.—**Cloth, Scarlet:** W. & T. Huggan, Leeds.—**Cotton Drill, Khaki:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Cotton, Waste:** Cotton Cellulose Co., Ltd., Rawtenstall.—**Cresoli, Liquor, Saponatus Fortis:** Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd., Plaistow, E.—**Crucibles, Plumbago:** The Morgan Crucible Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Curtains, Sandfly:** Thos. Briggs, Ltd., London, E.C.; Frank Lane, London, E.C.; Waring & Gillow, Ltd., London, W.—**Drill, Khaki:** A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Elastic, Special Wide Black:** Rufus Jones & Son, Nuneaton.—**Films, Cinema:** British & Colonial Kine Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Fuel Oil (Heavy, Light and Gas):** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Gas Burners:** Messrs. Alrae & Co., London, N.W.—**Haversacks, Respirator:** Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Ltd., London, S.E.; Maple & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Kerosine:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Lace, Worsted, Various Colours:** Dalton, Barton & Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Lead:** British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Lead, Pig, Soft:** Cookson & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Linen:** Ulster Weaving Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Masts, etc.:** Vickers, Ltd., Erith and Barrow.—**Motor Spirit:** Anglo-American Oil Co., London, S.W.; British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Pig Iron:** Barrow Hæmatite Steel Co., Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness; Distington Hæmatite Iron Co., Workington.—**Roofing Felt:** Engert & Rolfe, Ltd., London, E.—**Stoves and Portable Boilers, etc.:** Smith & Wellstood, Ltd., Bonnybridge; Summerford Iron Co., Ltd., Falkirk.—**Surgical Dressings:** A. Berton, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Surgical Instruments:** General Surgical Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Tracks Fitted to a 3-ton Peerless Lorry:** Armstrong, Siddley, Ltd., Coventry.—**Tubes, Angle:** Eli, Griffiths & Sons, Birmingham.—**Waistcoats, Cardigan:** Pryce, Jones, Ltd., Newtown, N. Wales.—**Works Services: Maintenance Works:** Lydd: G. Bates, West Rype, Lydd; J. H. Bates, Lydd. Glen Parva Barracks: Chitham & Co., Ltd., Leicester. Shorncliffe: Lewis & Sons (Dover), Ltd., Dover. Scotton Camp: W. Metcalfe, Richmond. Hipswell Camp, Yorks.: G. Shaw, Richmond.—**Building Works and Services:** Whittington Barracks, Lichfield: A. Robinson, Idle, Bradford.—**Installations:** Feltham Aerodrome: G. E. Taylor & Co., London, E.C. 4.

AIR MINISTRY.

Aircraft: Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil; Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes; Supermarine Aviation Co., Ltd., Southampton; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Aircraft Modification:** A. V. Roe & Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Aircraft, Reconditioning of:** Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Aircraft and Spares:** Short Bros., Rochester.—**Aircraft Spares:** Vickers, Ltd., London, S.W.; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes.—**Caps (Making-up):** Myers & Co., London, E.—**Conversion of Dope:** The British Cellulose & Mfg. Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Conversion of Buildings (Kenley):** T. & W. Heath, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Crossley Chassis:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Manchester.—**Electric Cable and Wires:** The Enfield Edison Cable Works, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Electrical Wires:** The General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Engine Spares:** Armstrong-Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; The Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Experimental Bombs:** Hadfields, Ltd., Sheffield.—**"Fire Snow" Extinguishers and Refills:** John Morris (Fire Snow), Ltd., Manchester.—**Ford Chassis:** Wallace, Harmer Motors, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Furnace Fuel Oil:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Leyland Spares:** Leyland Motors,

Ltd., Leyland, Lancs.—**Lifts, Hand Power:** Holt & Willetts, Cradley Heath.—**Married Quarters, Erection of (Duxford):** A. Negas & Sons, Cambridge.—**Mechanical Transport Spirit:** The Scottish Oil Agency, Ltd., Glasgow; British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Modifying "Dreadnought" Engine:** W. Beardmore & Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Oil Purifiers:** A. W. Empson, London, S.W.—**Paraffin:** British Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**R.A.F. Universal Type Magnetos:** The British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Rectification and Testing "Cross-head" Engine:** Ricardo & Co., Engineers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Repairs, etc., to London Hirings:** Cole, Loasby & Co., London, W.C.—**School Desks:** North of England School Furnishing Co., Ltd., Darlington.—**Test on "Jupiter" Engine:** The Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Type Test on "Lion" Engine:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Air Compressors, etc.: Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.—**Axles for Carriages and Wagons:** J. Baker & Co., Rotherham.—**Blankets:** Hepworth & Haley, Dewsbury.—**Blasting Powder:** Curtis's & Harvey, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Blocks, C.I. for Land Anchors, etc.:** Drillmet Co., Ltd., Warwick.—**Blouses:** D. Gurtene & Sons, Haverhill.—**Boat, Ferry:** Wm. Denny Bros., Ltd., Dumbarton.—**Boilers, Locomotive:** Kitson & Co., Leeds.—**Books, etc.:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Brass, White:** Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Buoy, etc., Automatic Gas Light:** Trinity House, London, E.C.—**Calf Lymph:** Dr. A. B. Green, Cornwall.—**Carriage Ironwork Forgings:** R. Y. Pickering & Co., Wishaw.—**Cars:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., London, W.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., London, E.C.; T. Beynon & Co., Ltd., Cardiff; Tunnell Portland Cement Co., London, E.C.—**Chains and Shackles:** Brown, Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd.—**Chairs, etc.:** H. H. Peach, Leicester.—**Clothing:** J. & B. Pearce & Co., London, E.—**Coal Tar:** J. E. C. Lord, Manchester.—**Coupons, Export, Rubber:** T. de la Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Crane, Portal:** S. Butler & Co., Ltd., Stanningley, near Leeds.—**Drill:** Union Mill Co., Manchester; J. H. Peck & Co., Manchester.—**Fencing and Gates:** Armstrongs & Main, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Fishbolts, etc.:** Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., London Works, near Birmingham.—**Flannel:** J. Bradbury & Co., Yorks; Smethurst & Holden, Manchester.—**Headlight Spares:** C. Stewart & Co., Glasgow.—**Hose, Fire, Canvas:** McGregor & Co., Dundee.—**Iron and Steelwork for Sheds:** F. Morton & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Lanterns:** James Hinks & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Lead, Pig:** G. Farmiloe & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Locks, etc.:** V. & R. Blakemore, London, E.C.—**Locomotives, Parts for:** North British Loco. Co., Glasgow.—**Locomotive Turntables:** Horsehay Co., Ltd., Shropshire.—**Locomotive Couplers:** A.B.C. Coupler & Engg. Co., London, S.W.—**Machine, Rail Planing:** Loudon Bros., Ltd., Johnstone.—**Machine, Milling, Universal:** British Machine Tool Makers, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Machines, Screwing:** Kendall & Gent, Ltd., Manchester.—**Motor Chassis:** Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., Glasgow.—**Motor Inspection Cars:** Drewry Car Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Motor Lorries and Spares:** Dennis Bros., Ltd., Guildford.—**Motor Fire Engine:** Merryweather & Sons, London, S.E.—**Oil, Fuel:** British Petroleum Co., London, W.C.—**Oil, Lubricating:** Wakefield & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Paint:** Torbay Paint Co., London, E.C.—**Pine, Pitch:** C. Leary & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Pipes, etc., Spigot and Socket:** Staveley Coal & Iron Co., near Chesterfield.—**Pipes, etc., Water:** Cochran & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough-on-Tees.—**Post Office Call Boxes:** S. Withers & Co., Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Puttees:** T. & J. Tinker, Huddersfield.—**Rails and Fishplates:** Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Railway, Portable:** R. Hudson, Ltd., Leeds.—**Rice Mill and Spares:** Wm. McKinnon & Co., Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Rollers, Motor:** Barford & Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Sheets, etc., Asbestos Cement, Corrugated:** British Fibrocement Works, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Sheets, etc., G.S. Corrugated:** Wolverhampton Corr. Iron Co.: Ellesmere Port, near Birkenhead.—**Spreader:** S. Thornely, Mott & Vines, London, S.W.; Whitakers (Engineers), Ltd., Leeds.—**Static Transformers:** English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Surgical Instruments:** Down Bros., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Surgical Dressings:** Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Switchgear:** British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Tar:** Shields & Ramsay, Glasgow.—**Tarco:** R. S. Clare & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Underframes, Goods Wagon:** Hurst, Nelson & Co., Ltd., Motherwell.—**Wagons, Platform:** J. Fowler & Co., Leeds.—**Wheels and Axles for Carriages and Wagons:** Owen & Dyson, Ltd., Yorks.

POST OFFICE.

Apparatus, Telephonic: Automatic Telephone Mfg. Co., Ltd., Liverpool; British L.M. Ericsson Mfg. Co., Ltd., Beeston, Notts.; Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Siemens Bros. & Company, Ltd., London, S.E.; Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Apparatus, Testing, Protective, etc.:** Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Bicycles, Maintenance Parts for:** B.S.A. Cycles, Ltd., Small Heath, Birmingham.—**Blocks, Terminal:** Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., Hanley.—**Bolts, Arm:** Bullers, Ltd., Tipton, Staffs.—**Boots:** R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds; S. Walker, Walgrave, Northampton.—**Boxes, Battery, Leclanche:** Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Boxes, Packing, Cardboard:**

E. J. Bradstreet & Sons, Ltd., London, E.—**Boxes, Packing, Wood:** W. Bridgewater & Sons, Birmingham; Calder & McDougall, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Brackets, G.I.:** D. Willetts, Ltd., Cradley Heath, Staffs.—**Cabinets, Telephone:** Siemens Bros. & Company, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Submarine:** Siemens Bros. & Company, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Cable, Telegraphic and Telephonic:** Connolly's (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley; Enfield Ediswan Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown, Middlesex; General Electric Co., Ltd. (Messrs. Peel-Conner Telephone Works), Coventry; Hackbridge Cable Co., Ltd., Hackbridge, Surrey; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby; Pirelli General Cable Works, Ltd., Southampton; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham Dock, Essex.—**Castings, Joint Box:** J. Varley & Company, Ltd., St. Helens, Lancs.—**Cells, Secondary, Parts for:** Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Chains, Bicycle:** Coventry Chain Co., Ltd., Spon End, Coventry.—**Cloth:** J. Halliday & Co., Ltd., Pudsey.—**Coils, Loading:** Western Electric Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Compound:** W. H. Keys, Ltd., West Bromwich.—**Cords, Telephone:** Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.—**Desiccators and Pumps:** Lacy-Hulbert & Co., Ltd., Beddington, Croydon.—**Ducts:** G. Jennings, Parkstone, Dorset; Mountford, Phillips & Co. (1920), Ltd., Llantrisant, Glam.—**Insulators:** Taylor, Tunnicliffe & Co., Ltd., Hanley, Longton & Stone.—**Irons, Loop:** D. Willetts, Ltd., Cradley Heath.—**Kiosks:** D. G. Somerville & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.—**Laundry Work:** Woodbridge Laundry Co., Ltd., Guildford.—**Markers, Joint:** Jones & Attwood, Ltd., Stourbridge.—**Meters, Ampere Hour:** Chamberlain & Hookham, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Paint:** Foster, Mason & Harvey, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Paper, Baudot, Gummed:** Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., London, E. and S.E.—**Pipes, Steel:** Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd., Halesowen and Coatbridge.—**Plates, Earth:** J. Ash & Son, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Rags, White:** A. Armitage, Dewsbury; J. T. Dobbins, Ltd., Ardwick, Manchester.—**Re-inforcing Material:** Barb Engineering Company, Saltney, Chester; Indented Bar and Concrete Engineering Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent.—**Screws, Coach:** T. W. Lench, Ltd., Blackheath, Staffs.—**Screws for Wood:** Nettlefold & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Sleeves, Jointing:** Dugard Bros., Ltd., Birmingham; C. M. Powell, Bros., Birmingham.—**Sleeves, Lead:** Baxendale & Company, Ltd., Manchester; G. Farmiloe & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; W. T. Glover & Company, Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester.—**Spindles:** Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., Smethwick.—**Spirit, Motor:** Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Stayblocks and Stayguards:** Burt, Boulton and Haywood, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Straw:** Turner, Byrne and Co., Ltd., London, N.W.—**Tape, Linen:** Bole Hall Mill Company, Tamworth; G. Hattersley & Sons, Ltd., Keighley.—**Tube, Lead, Pneumatic:** Baxendale & Company, Ltd., Manchester.—**Vehicles, Motor and Parts:** Austin Motor Company, Ltd., Longbridge, Birmingham.—**Wire, Bronze:** T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakamoor, Staffs; British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancs.; R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Manchester; Shropshire Iron Company, Ltd., Hadley, Salop; F. Smith & Co., Incorporated in the London Electric Wire Company & Smiths, Ltd., Salford, Manchester.—**Wire, Copper:** Elliotts Metal Company, Ltd., Selly Oak, Birmingham; Shropshire Iron Company, Ltd., Hadley, Wellington, Salop.—**Wire, Flameproof:** Macintosh Cable Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Wire, Switchboard:** General Electric Co., Ltd. (Messrs. Peel-Conner Telephone Works), Coventry.

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